

DEL COURT

ARLESTON • BARBUCCI

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Enkö



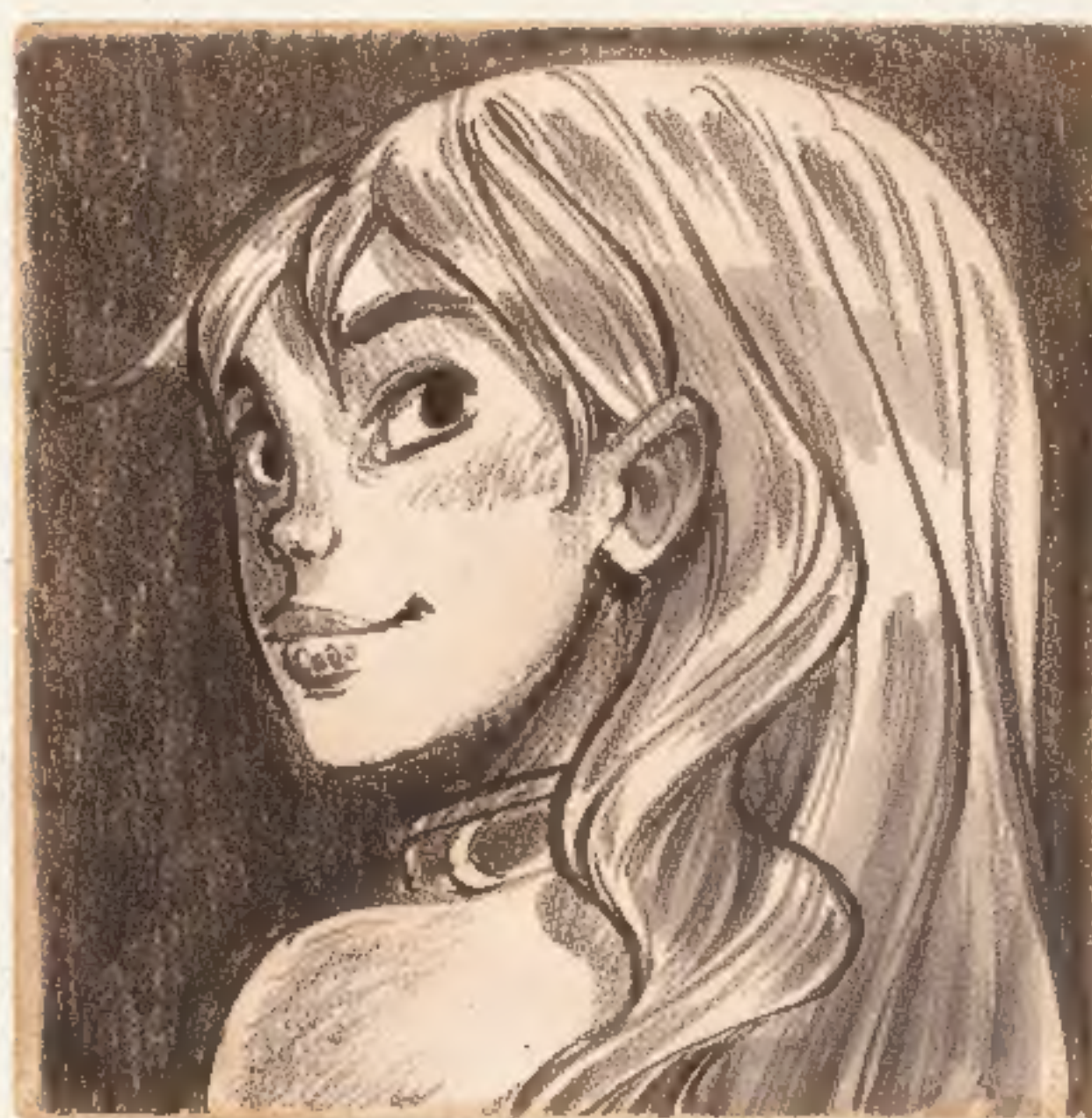
EKHO IS THE EARTH, EXCEPT IT'S NOT.



Here we find the same cities, the same countries, but everything's different - it's a world without electricity. One may be born here, or brought in from Earth by some funny little creatures, the Preshauns. Nobody knows exactly what the Preshauns want...



But Fourmille and Youri's arrival is going to upset the balance kept by the Preshauns. Possessed by ghosts, Fourmille must solve their problems in order to go back to being herself again... For when she changes hairstyle, it's a sign she is inhabited by another personality...



FOURMILLE GRATULE

was flying to New York when she tumbled on Ekho. An inheritance was waiting for her and she's now the head of a talent agency.



YURI PODROV

a computer guy, was Fourmille's seat-mate on the plane. He's been accidentally dragged to Ekho with her. Usually their personalities are hardly compatible.



GRACE LUMUMBA

she is a native to Ekho. Loyal secretary of the Gratule Agency. In her spare time she's Yumma the stripper.



SIGISBERT DE MOTAFIUME

this Preshaun is a young clerk. His mission is to make sure that the presence of Fourmille and Youri doesn't affect the delicate balance of the mirror world too much!



THE PRESHAUNS

are strange and well mannered little creatures who ensure the proper functioning of Ekho; by using strange machines, they keep what they call the Thaumic equilibrium. They have to drink tea at specific times of the day, otherwise they might turn into dreadful, out of control, monsters!

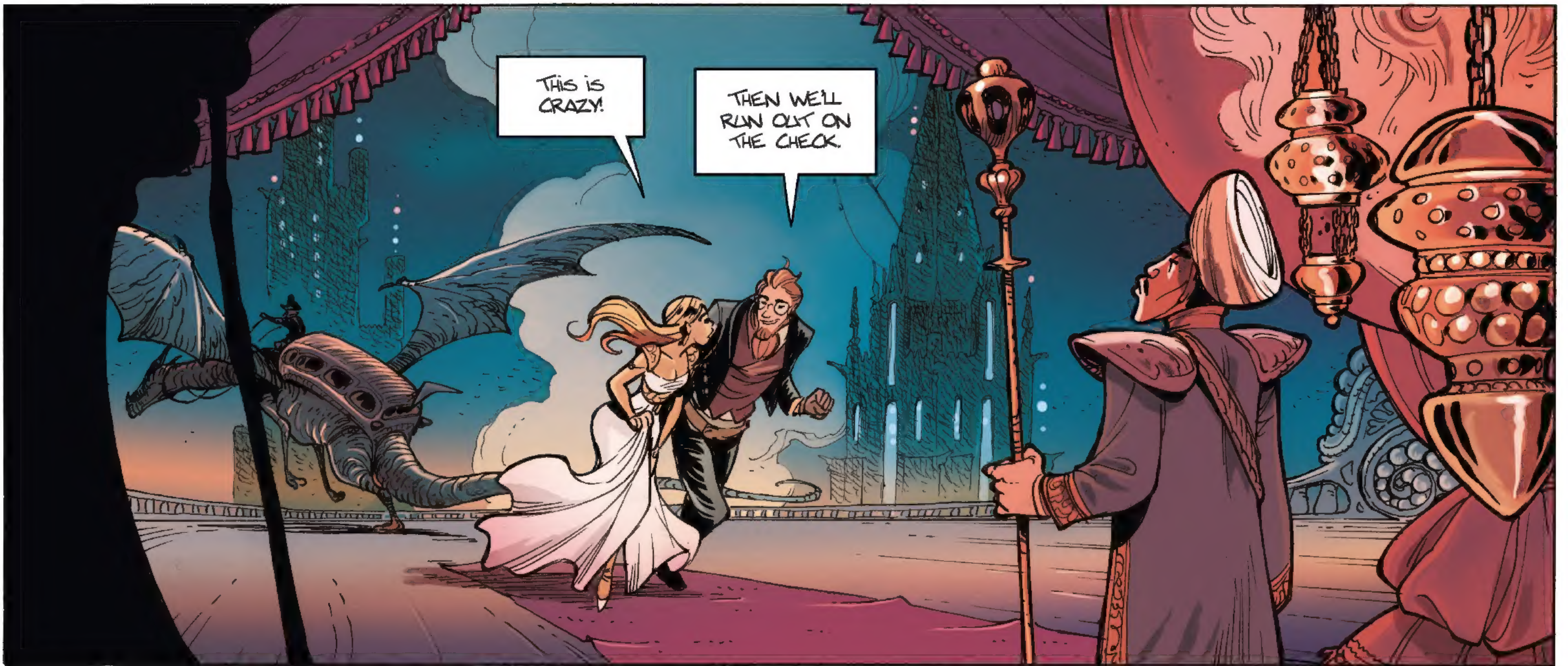
NEW YORK WHEN YOU'VE GOT MONEY
IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN NEW YORK
WHEN YOU'RE BROKE.

YES OF COURSE, THIS
IS TRUE ANYWHERE.
BUT HERE MORE THAN
ANYWHERE. BECAUSE
EVERYTHING IS MORE,
IN NEW YORK

I GOT US A TABLE
AT THE SHAOLA,
THE BEST INDIAN
RESTAURANT IN
TOWN.

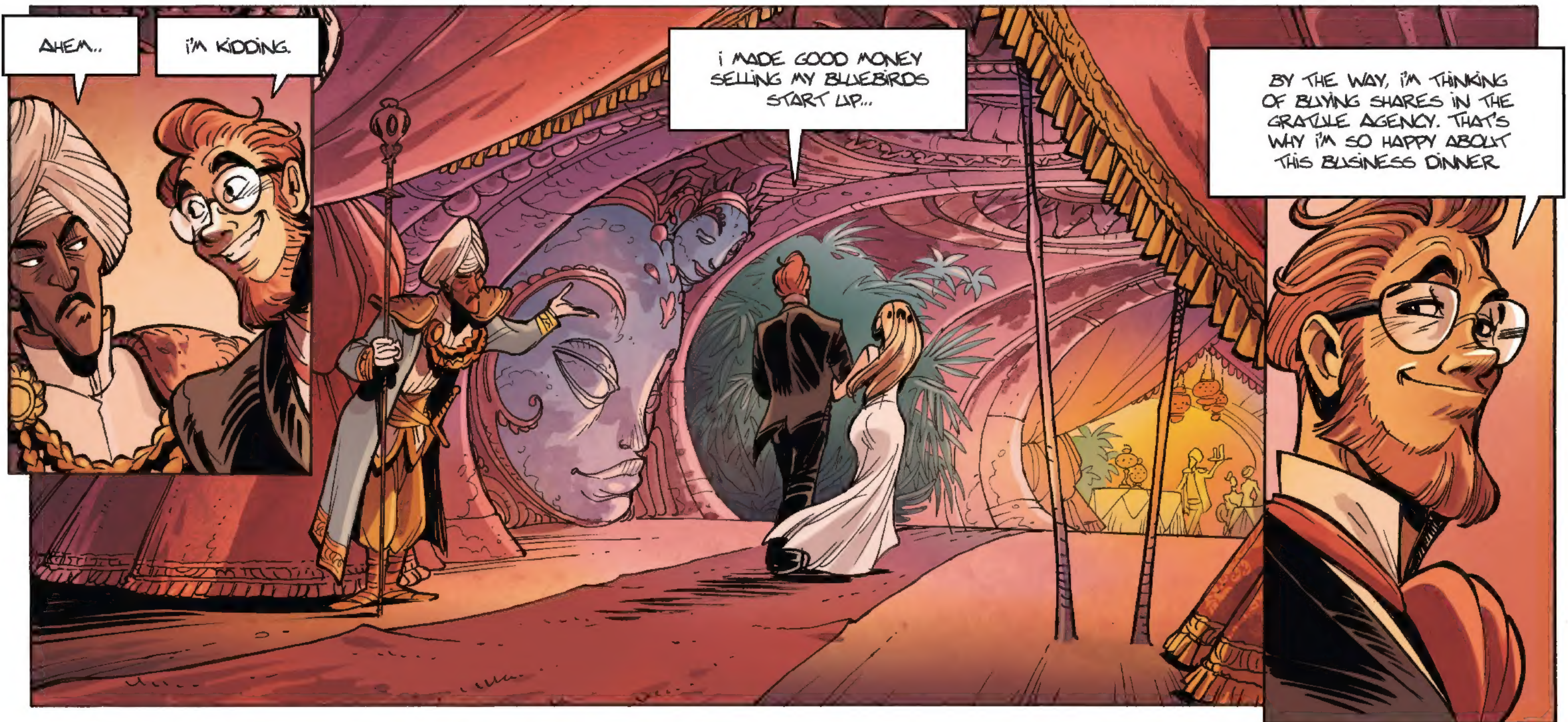
THEY HAVE A
NEW FRENCH
COOK

YURI! A DINNER THERE COSTS
LIKE THE AGENCY'S MONTHLY
REVENUE!



THIS IS CRAZY!

THEN WE'LL RUN OUT ON THE CHECK.

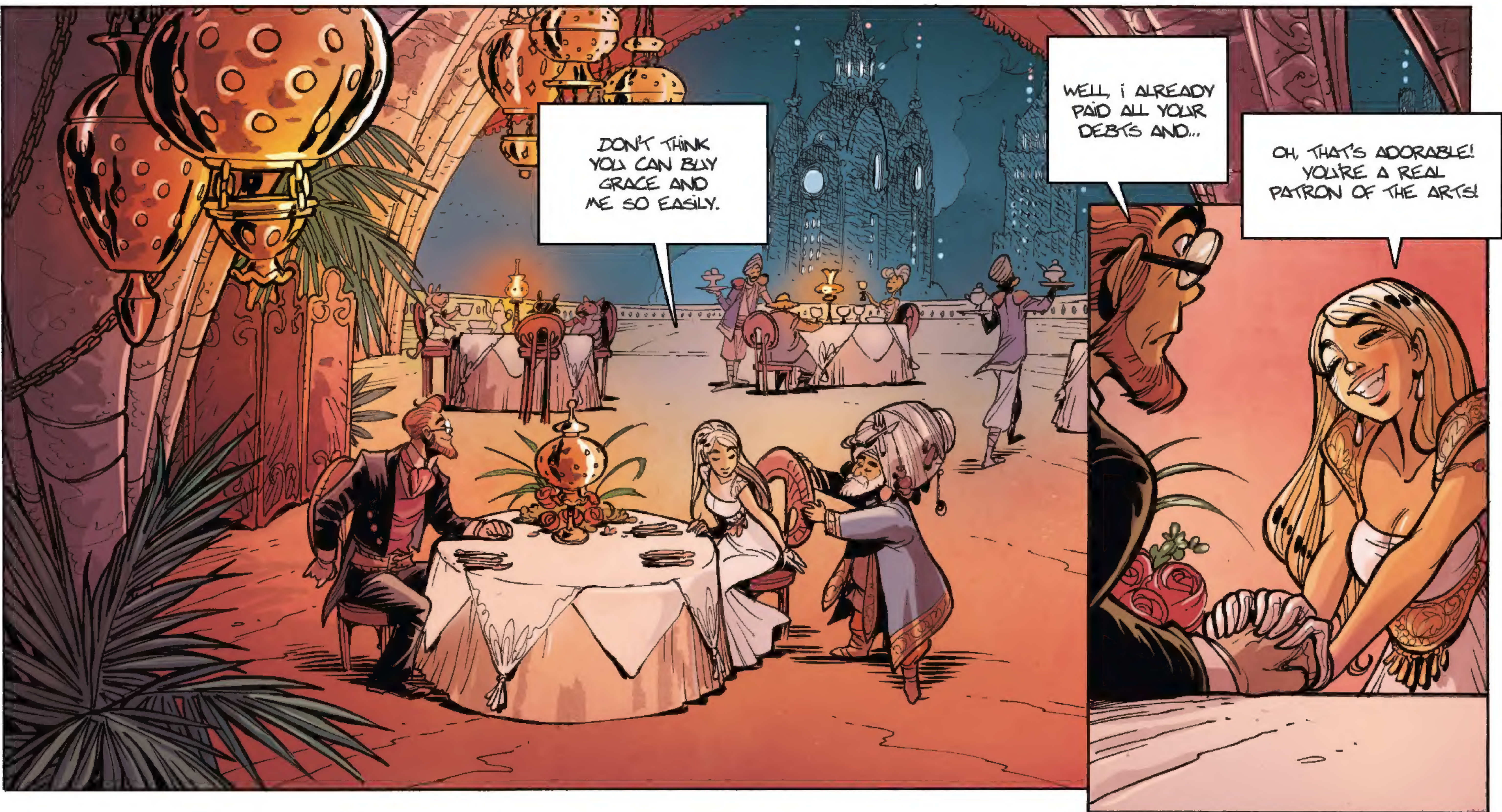


AHEM...

I'M KIDDING.

I MADE GOOD MONEY SELLING MY BLUEBIRDS START UP...

BY THE WAY, I'M THINKING OF BUYING SHARES IN THE GRADULE AGENCY. THAT'S WHY I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT THIS BUSINESS DINNER



DON'T THINK YOU CAN BUY GRACE AND ME SO EASILY.

WELL, I ALREADY PAID ALL YOUR DEBTS AND...

OH, THAT'S ADORABLE! YOU'RE A REAL PATRON OF THE ARTS!

IT'S A TALENT AGENCY, YOU LIKE ARTS, SO YOU SPONSOR THEM. THAT MAKES SENSE AND IT'S VERY GENEROUS.



WHERE IS ALEXANDRE? HE'S BEEN GONE FOR AN HOUR.



HE'S STILL DOWN IN THE CELLAR.

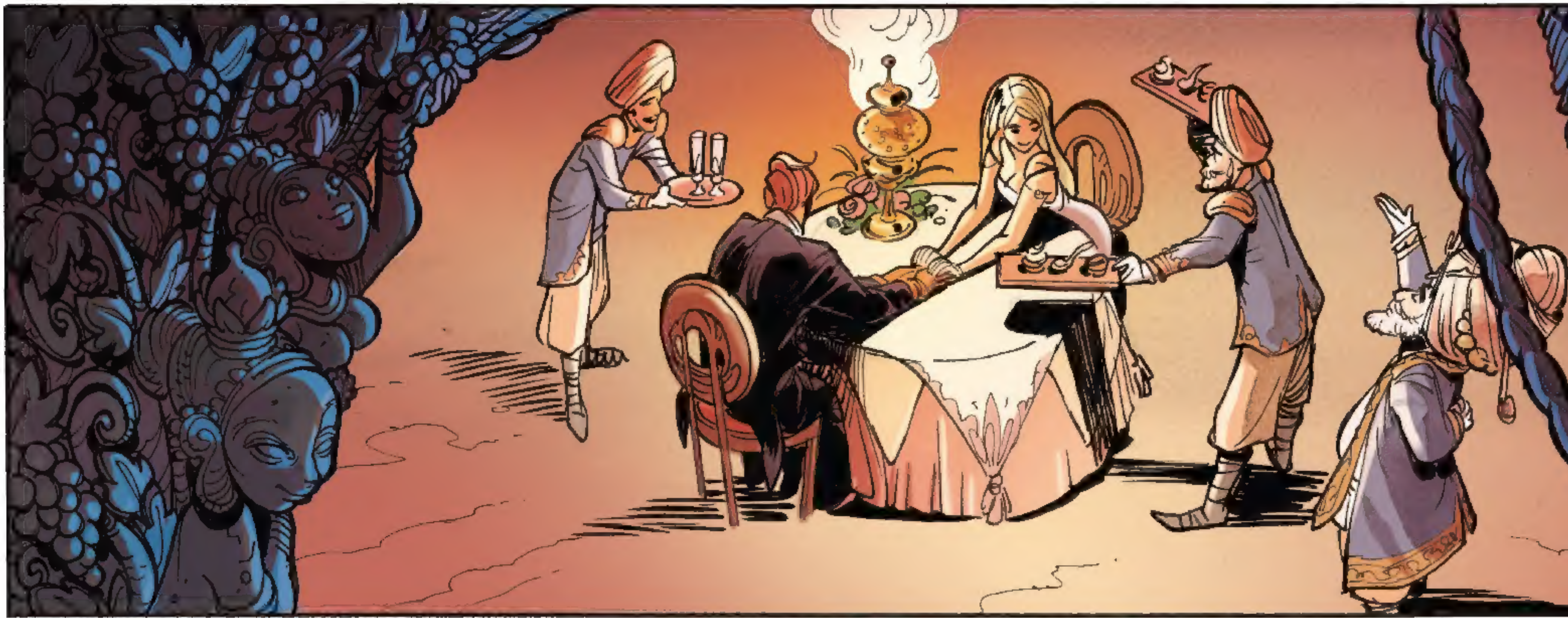
IT'S MORE LIKE AN INVESTMENT, ACCORDING TO MY LAWYER.



SIGSBERT MOTAFLUME, FROM MOTAFLUME & MOTAFLUME LAW FIRM.

I THINK I KNOW HIM.

SMALL HAIRY EARS, DRINKS TEA RIGHT?



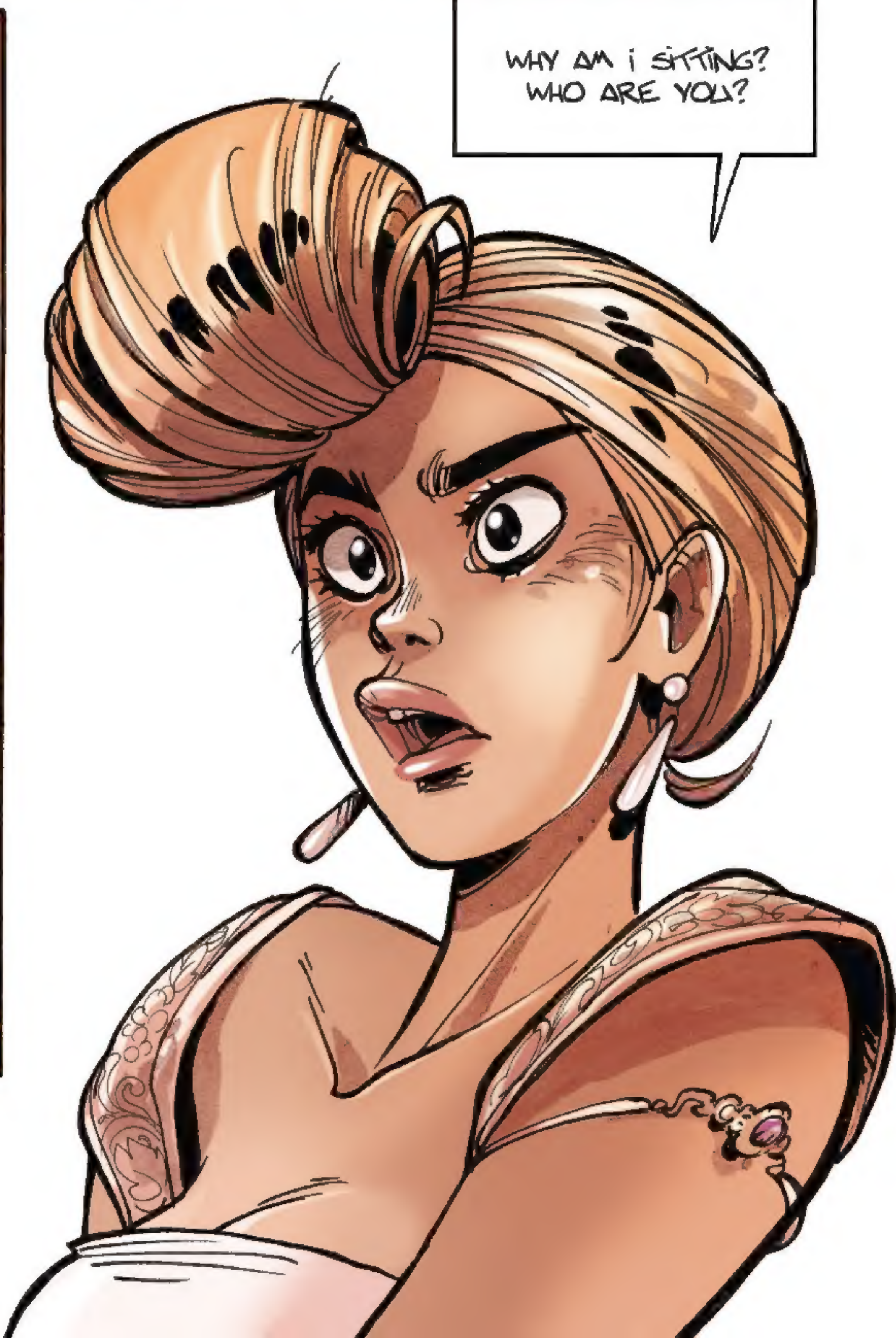
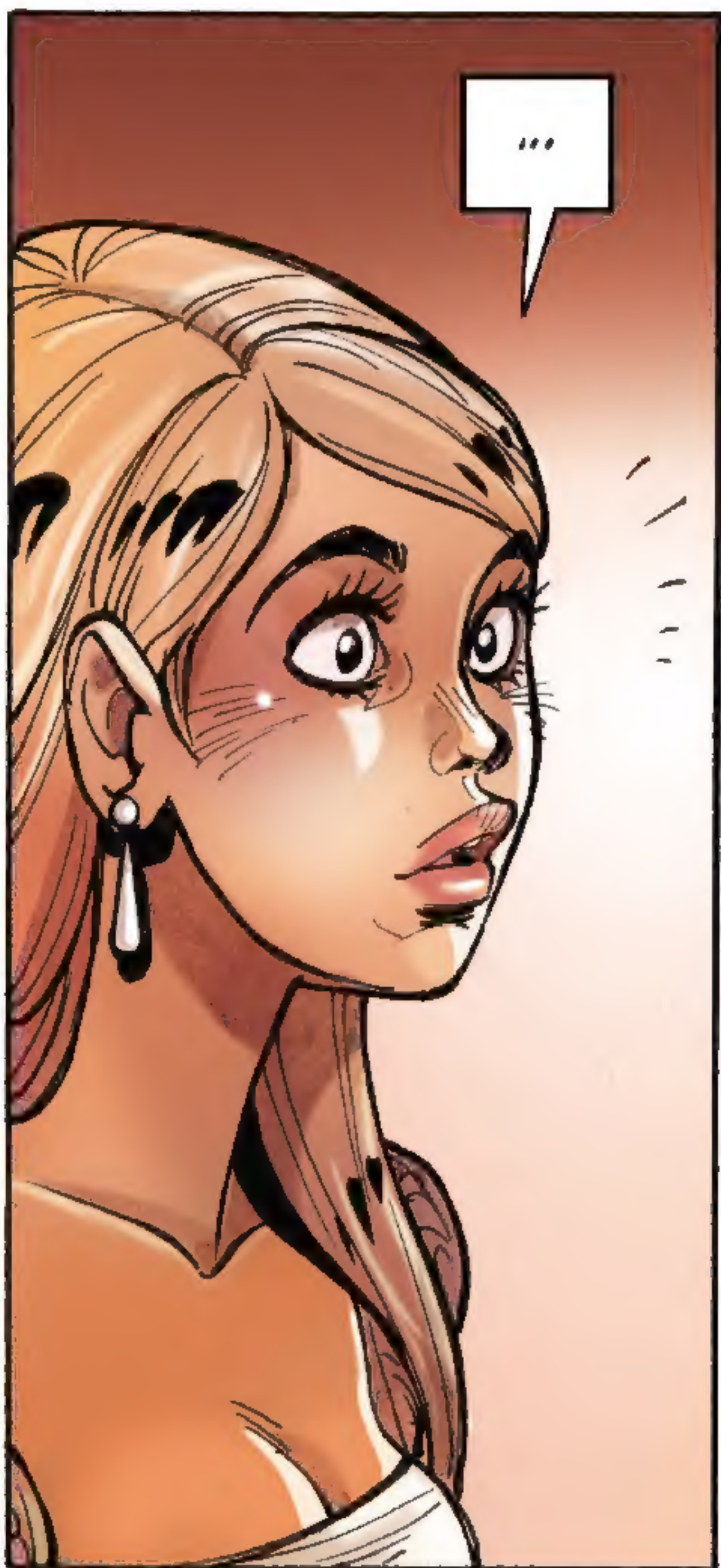
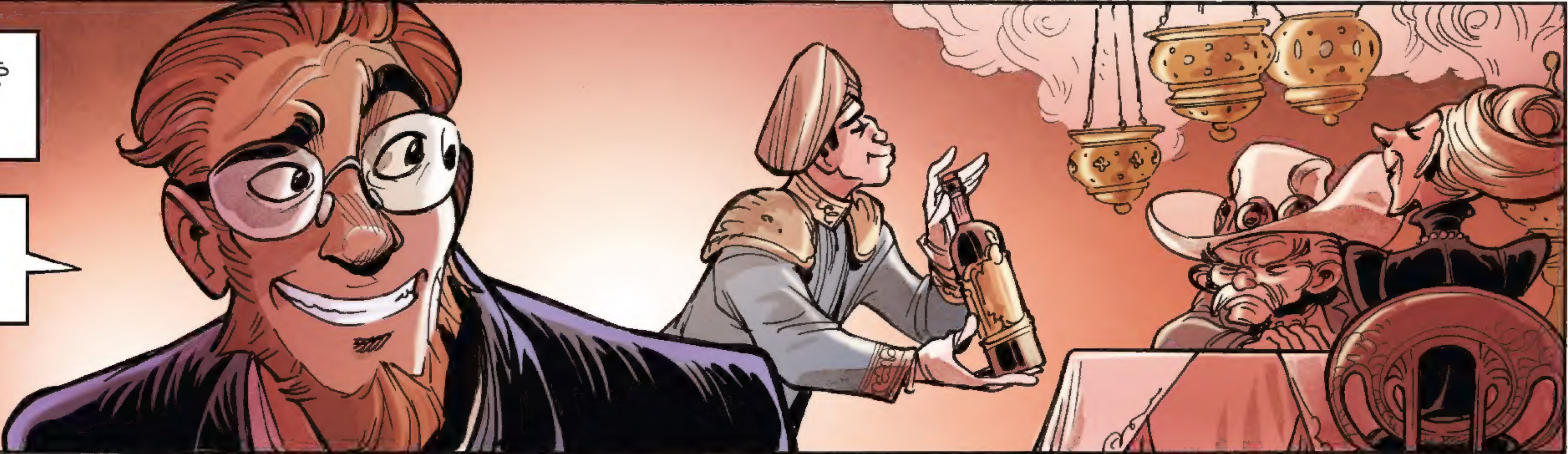
PLEASE, LET US WELCOME YOU! CHAMPAGNE DOM RUINART ROSÉ...

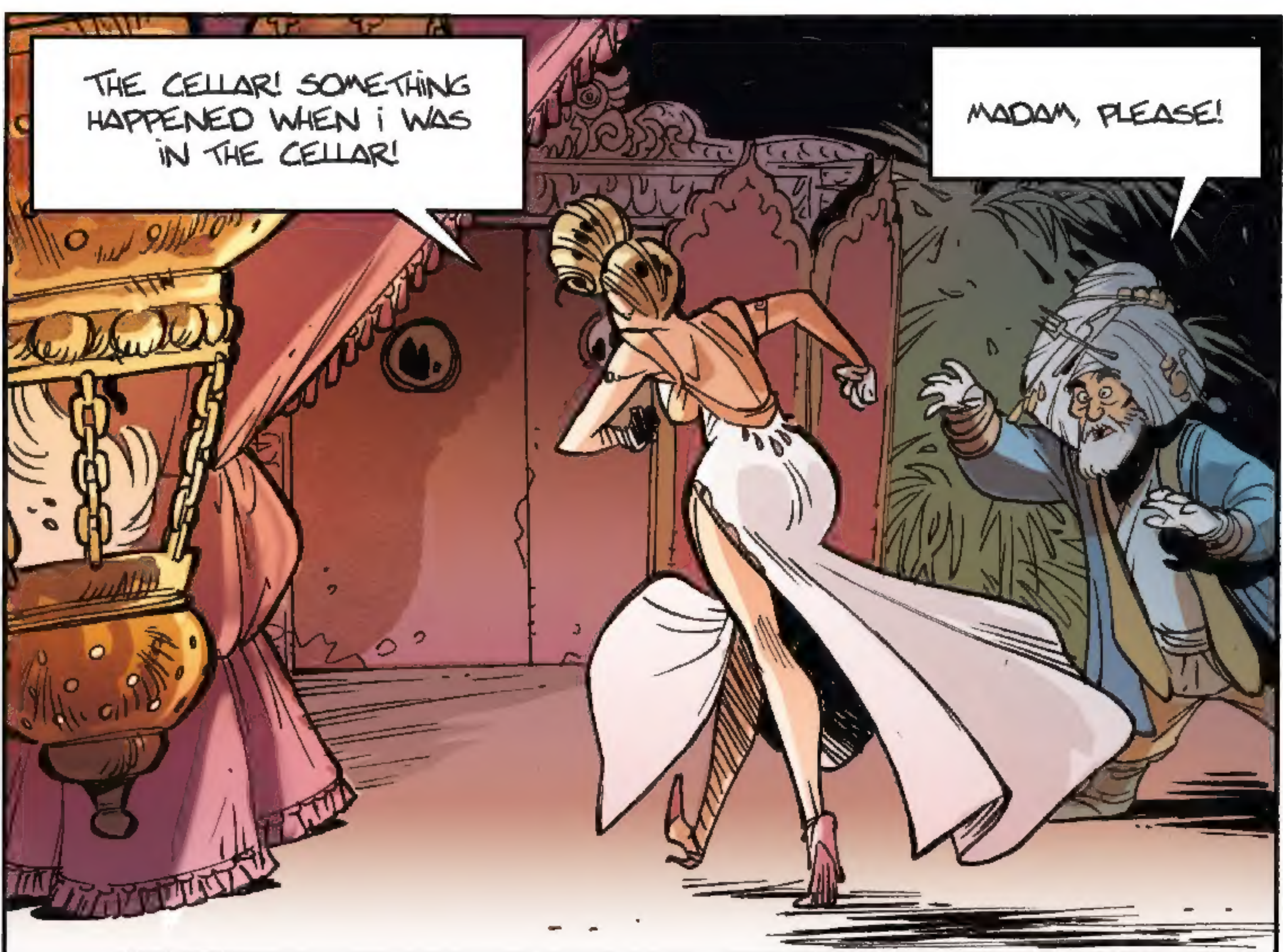
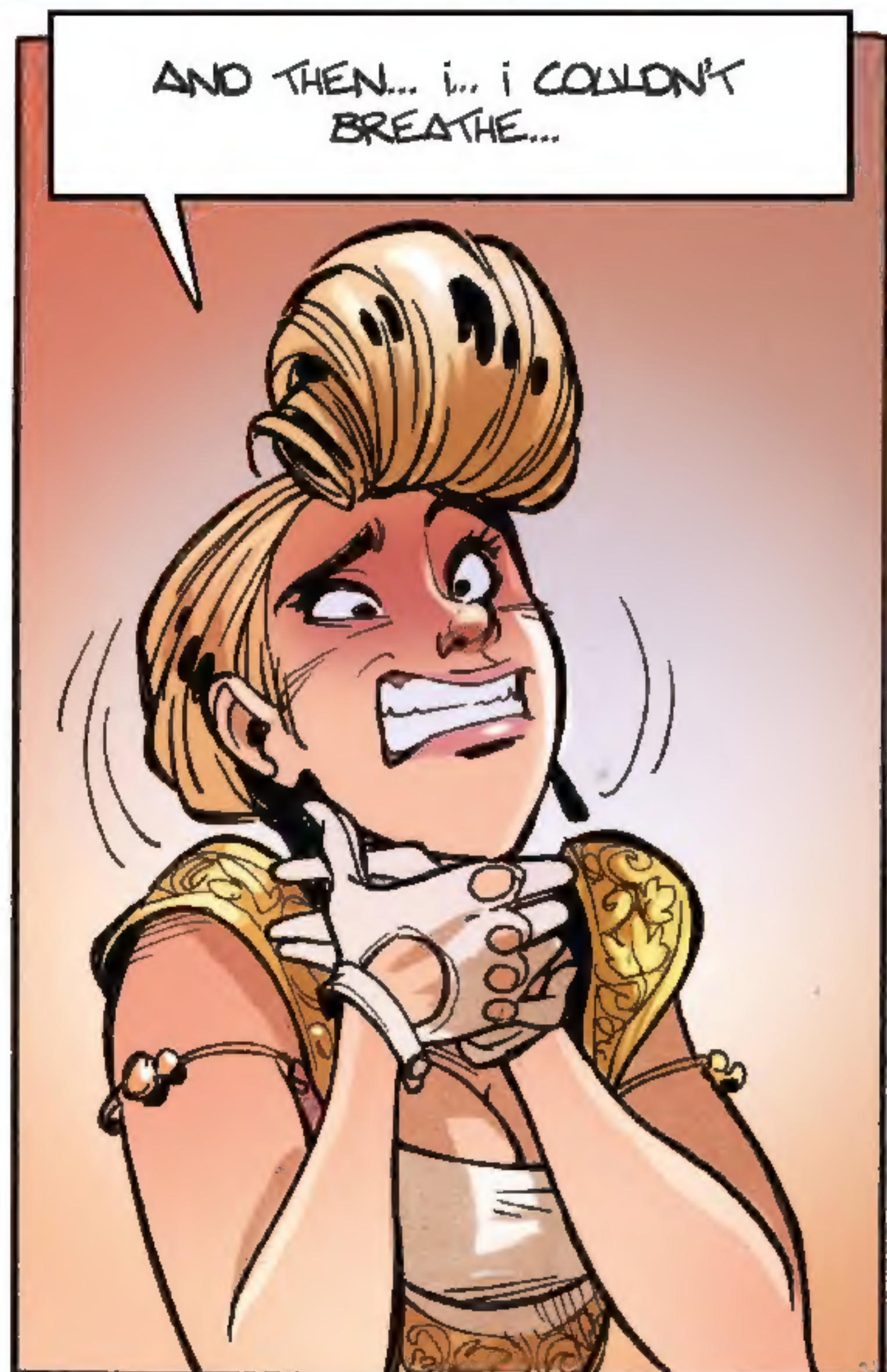
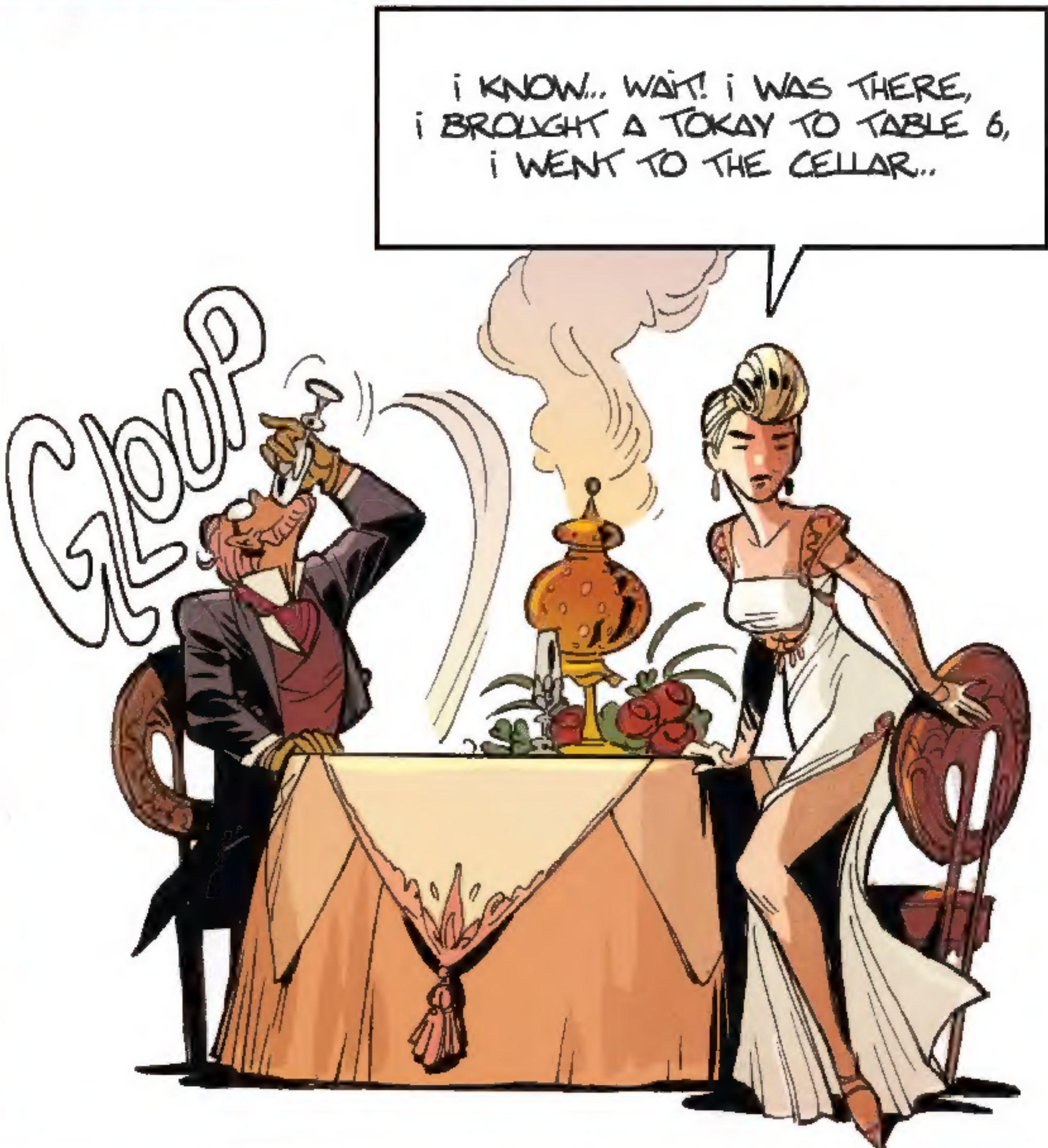
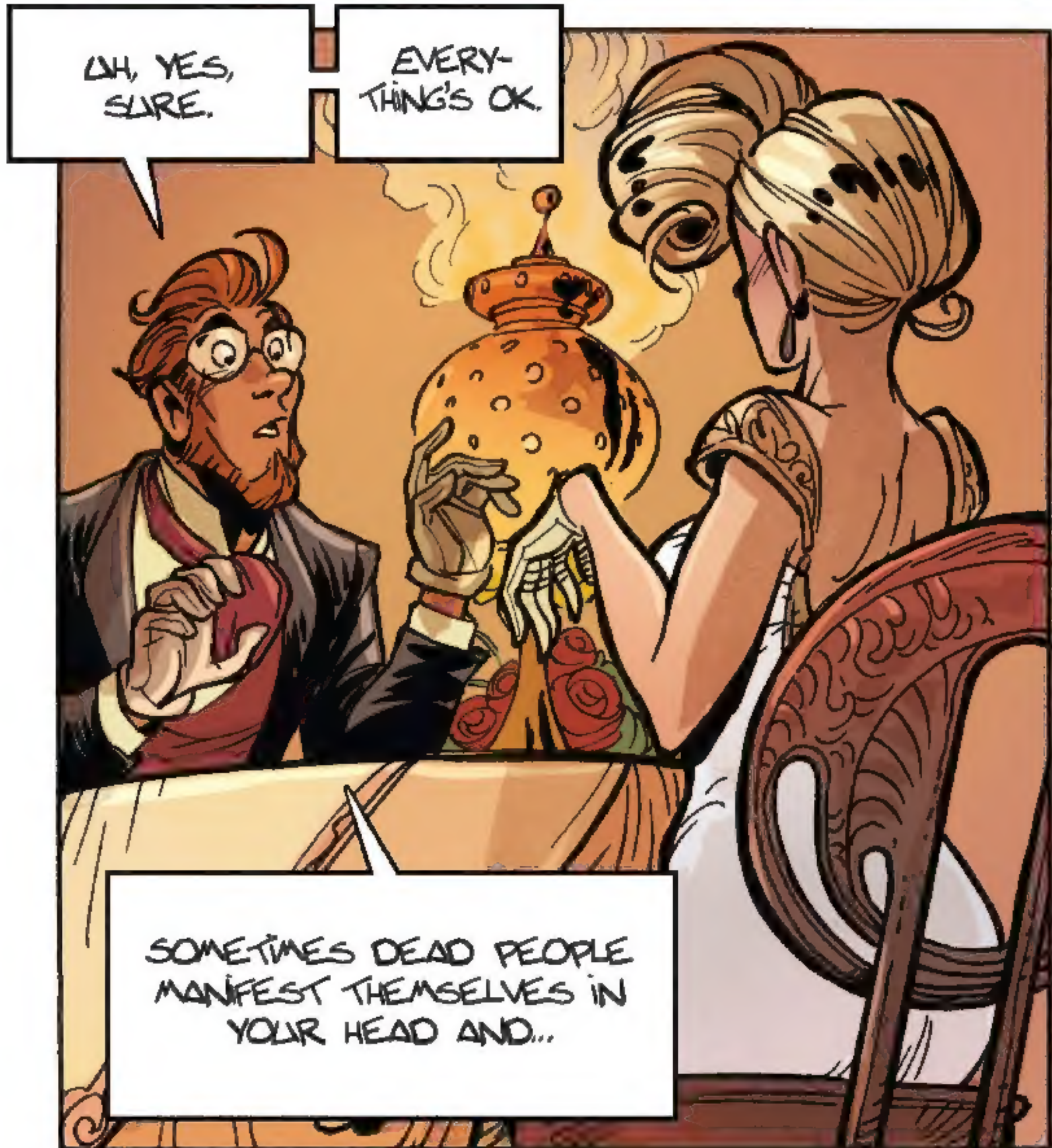
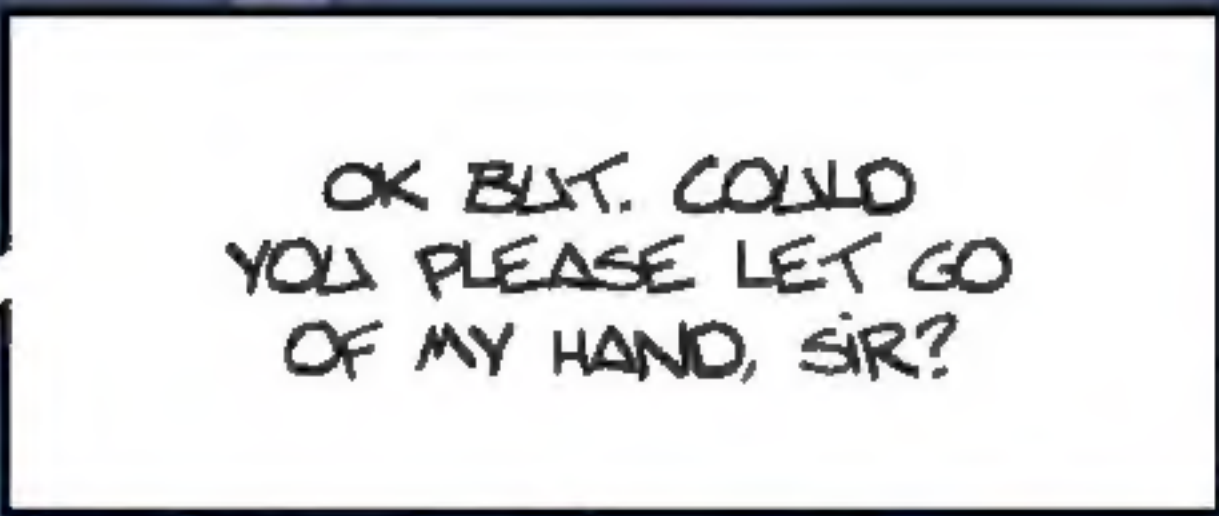
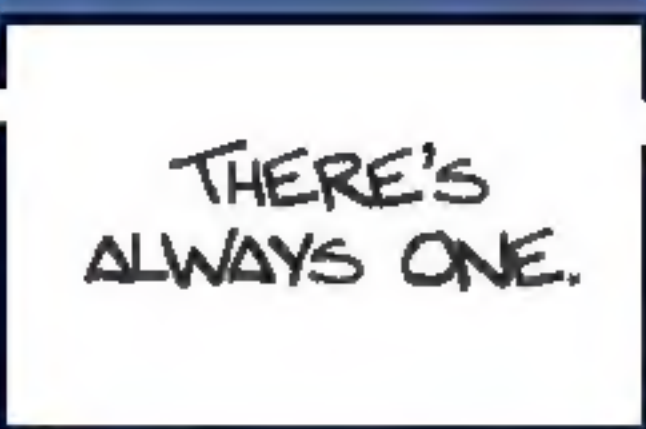
AS AN APPETIZER, BLUE GINGER YUZU KROSTÖL MAKI, SPICY DRAGONLET WITH CHORIZO, CRÈME BRÛLÉE WITH FLEGEROTTES, AND A SMALL DOUBLE MARROW GLAZE.

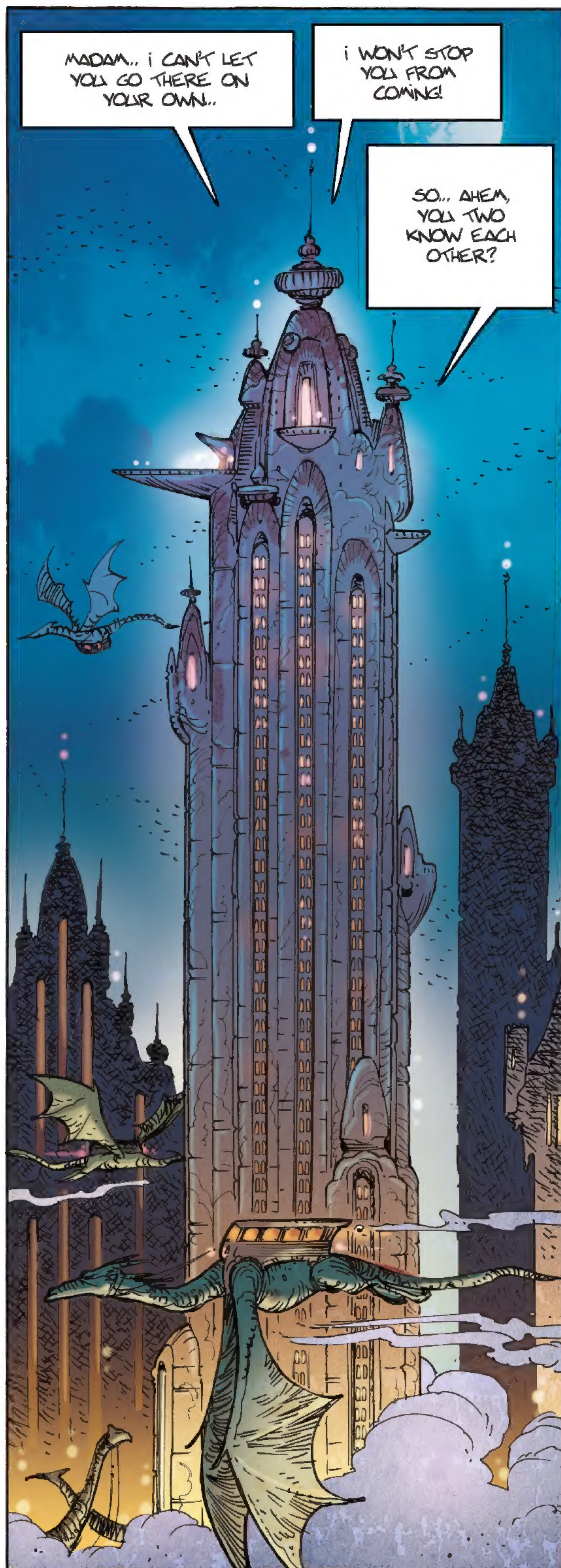
PLEASE ENJOY.

WHAT LANGUAGE WAS THAT? I DIDN'T GET A WORD!

I THINK HE MEANT THAT EVERYTHING HERE IS GOOD TO EAT.









I HAD TO GET
A MAGNUM OF 1988
RUSSIAN PET.

WAIT, FOURM... HEM
ALEXANDRE, RIGHT?

IF WHAT I FEAR HAS
HAPPENED, YOU MIGHT
HAVE A SHOCK.

I'M ALREADY HAVING A STUPID
DREAM WHERE I WALK AROUND
WITH THIS BULK, WHAT GREATER
SHOCK COULD I HAVE?

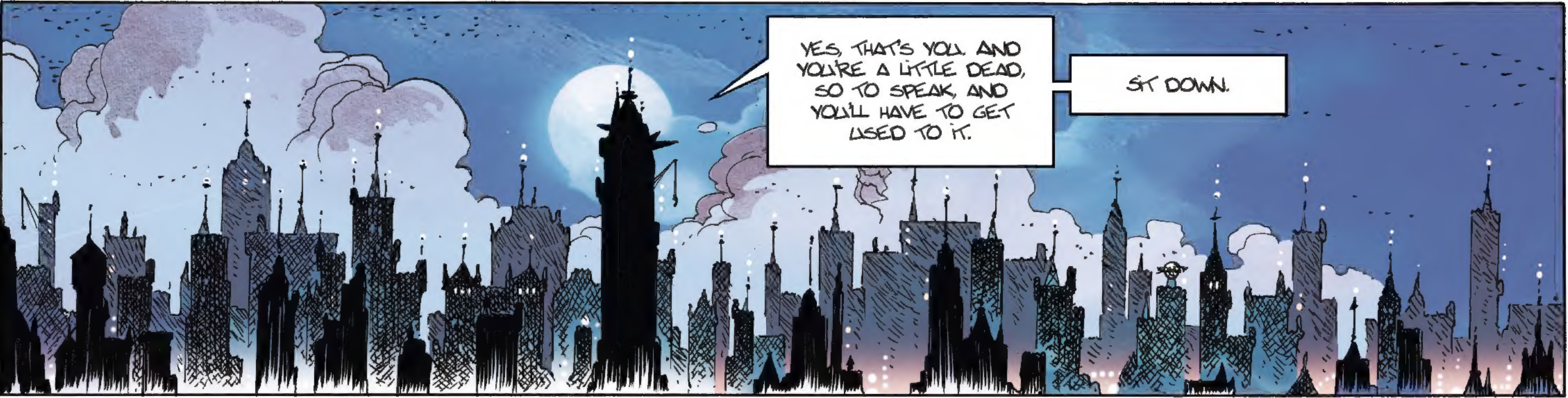
JESUSFUCKNCHRIST!

BUT BUT BUT
BUT...



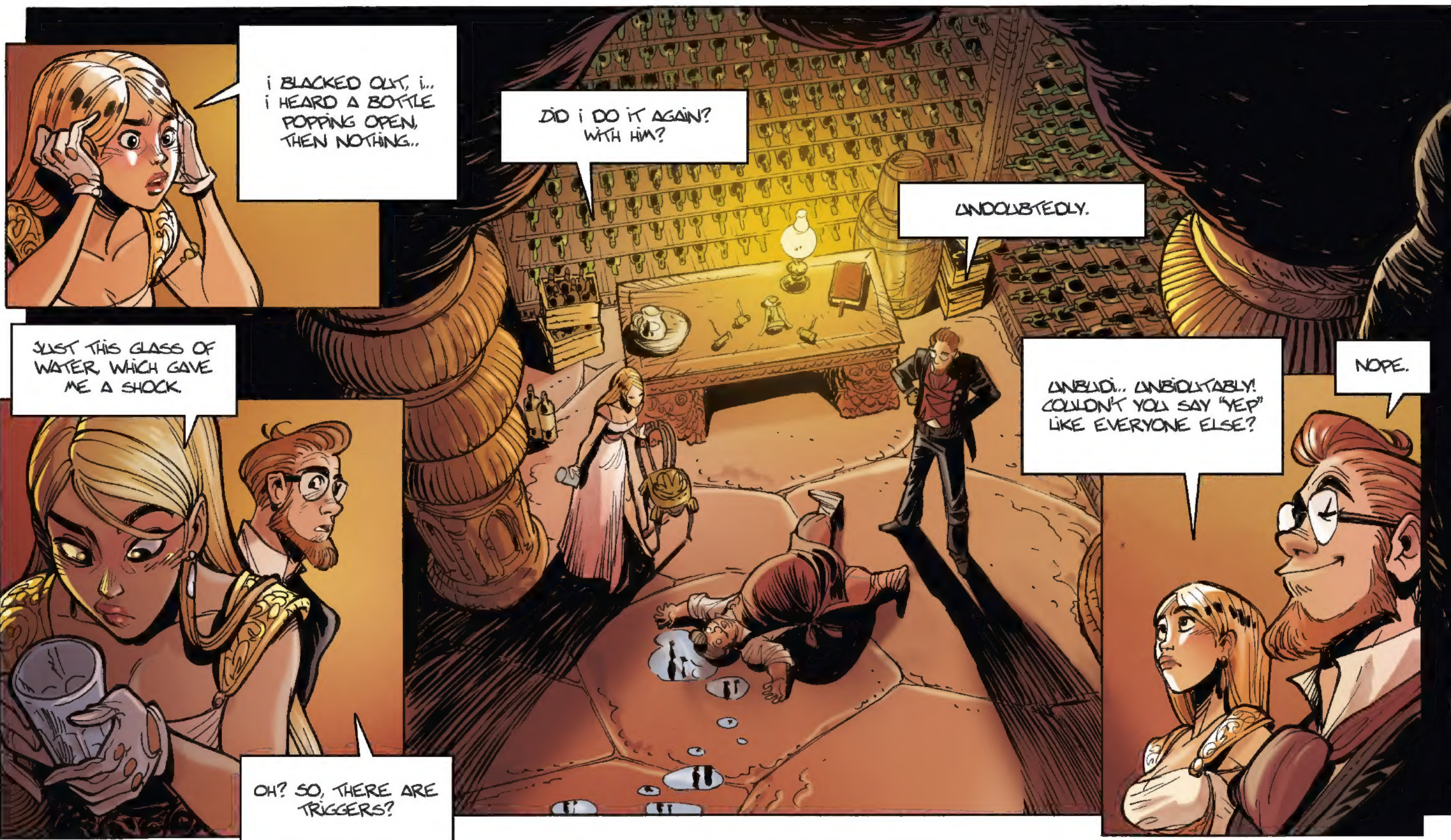
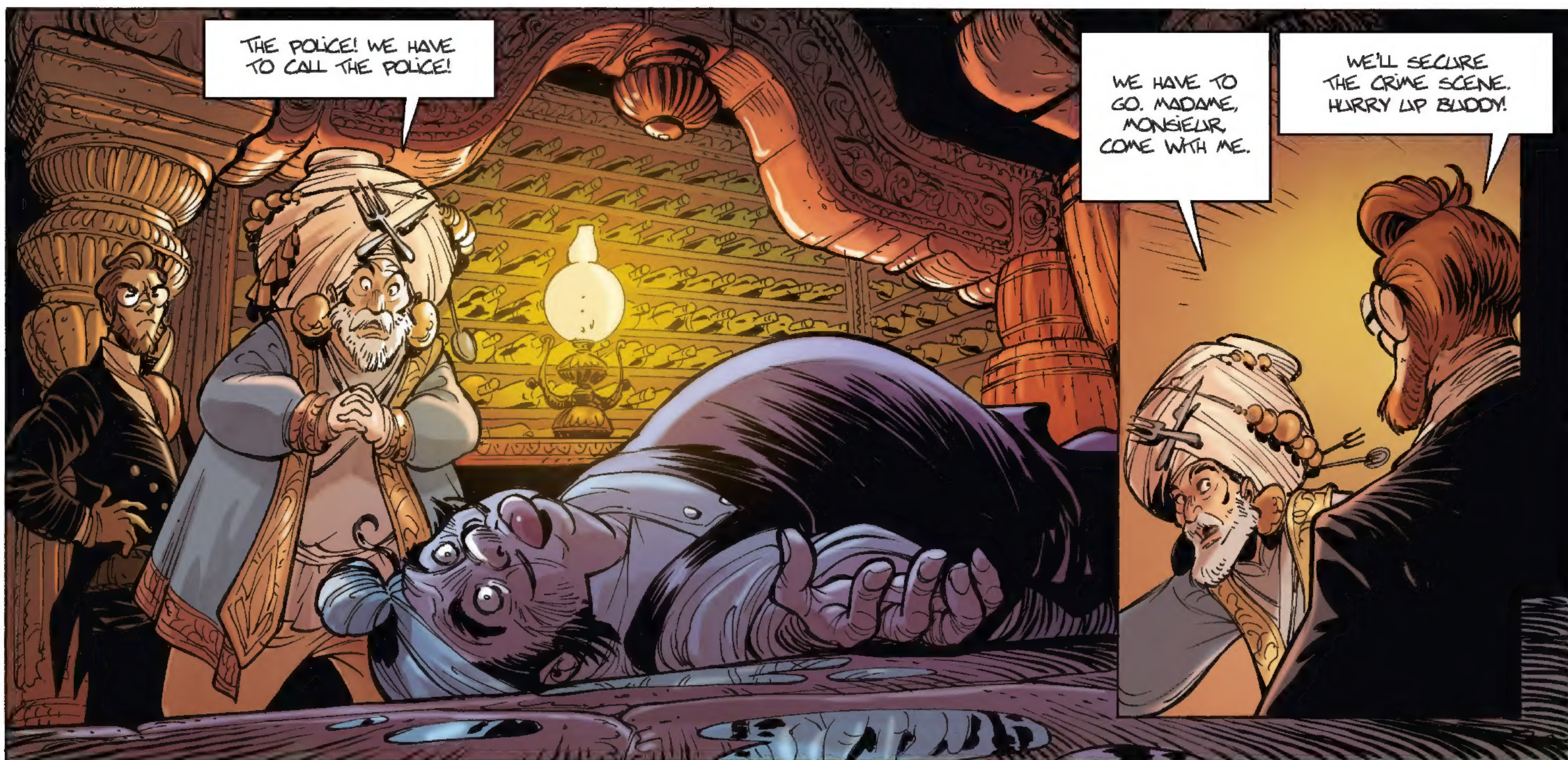
ALEXANDRE!

HEY, THAT'S
ME!!!



YES, THAT'S YOU, AND
YOU'RE A LITTLE DEAD,
SO TO SPEAK, AND
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET
USED TO IT.

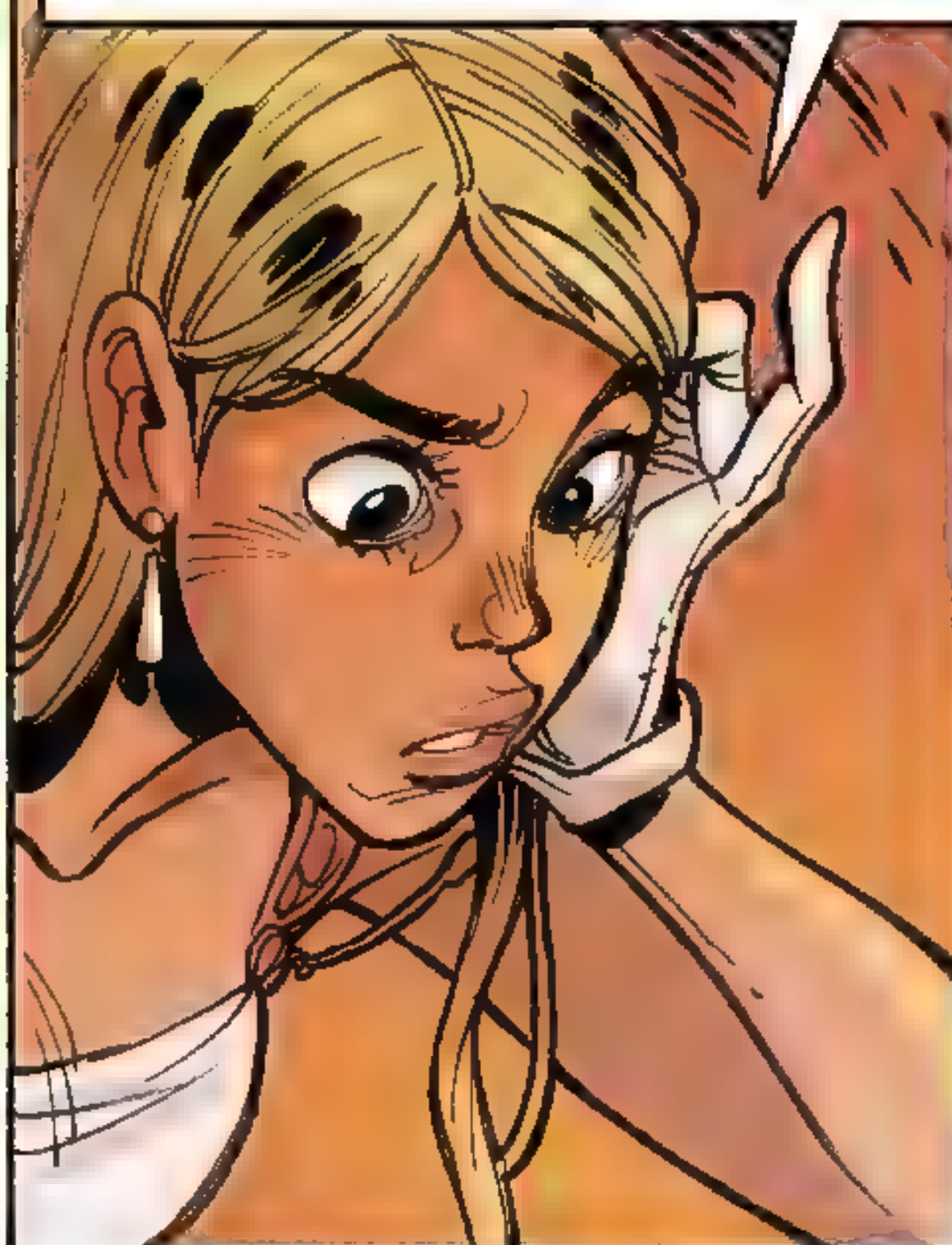
SIT DOWN.



HE HAS CLEARLY BEEN STRANGLERD, THOSE LOOK LIKE THE MARKS OF VERY BIG FINGERS.



I GUESS THAT IF HIS DYING SOUL HAS SOUGHT REFUGE IN MY BRAIN, IT'S UP TO ME TO SOLVE THE CASE AND TO GET RID OF HIM.



THERE'S EVIDENCE HERE! EITHER THE KILLER PEEED HIMSELF OR HE WAS SOAKED.

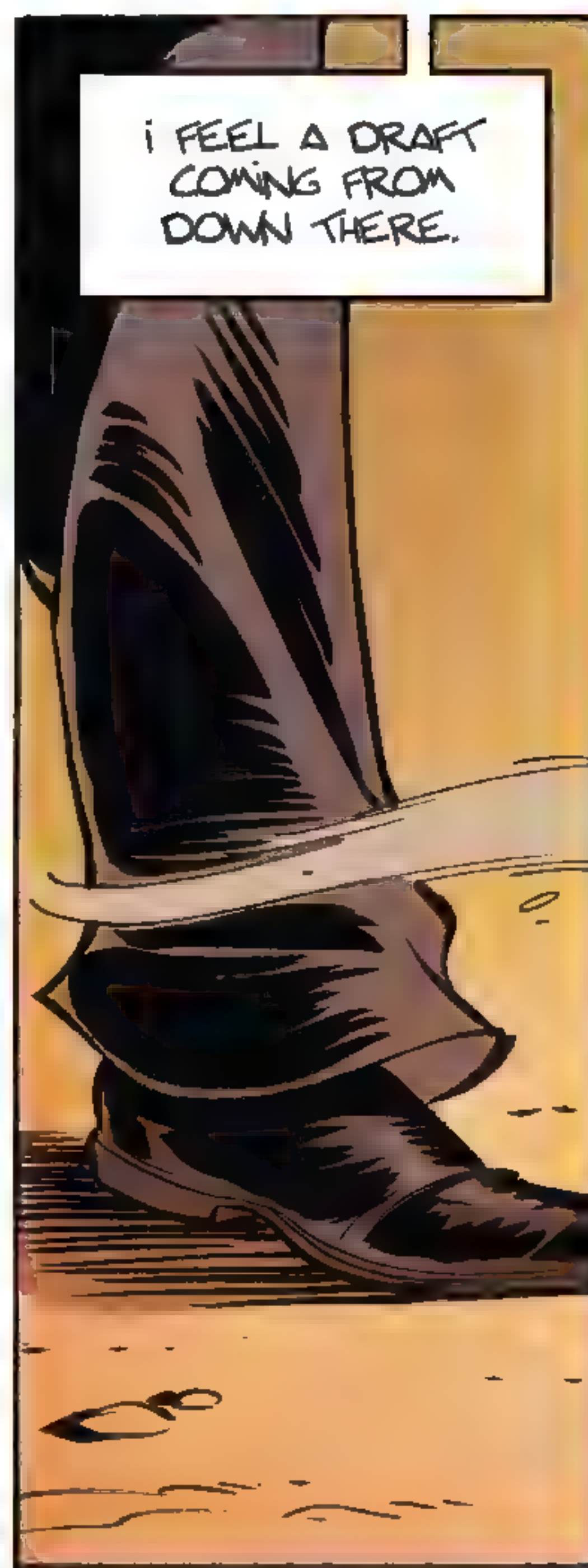


COULD THERE BE A WAY OUT FROM HERE?

OR MAYBE HE'S HIDING DOWN THE HALLWAY.

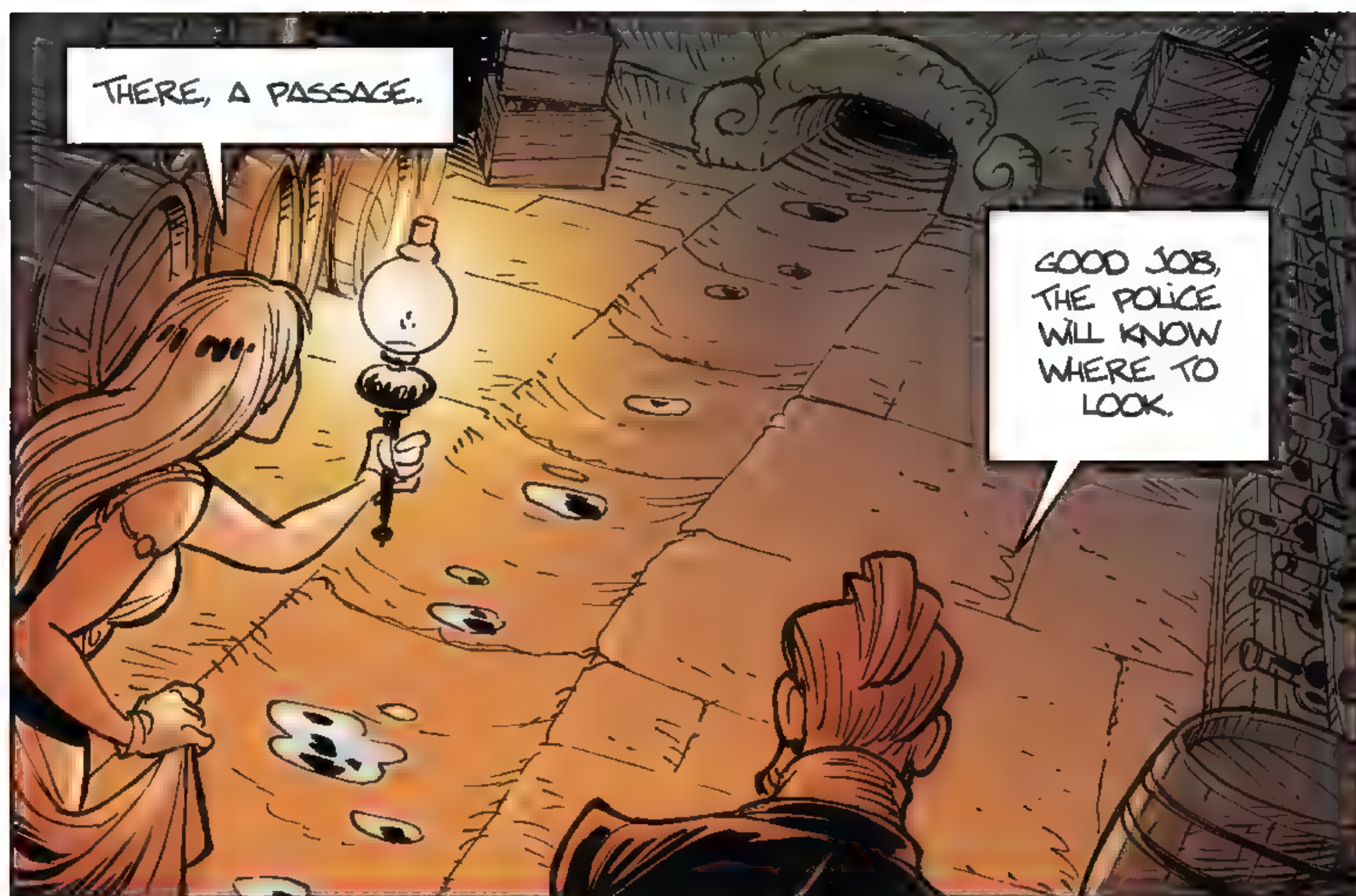


I FEEL A DRAFT COMING FROM DOWN THERE.



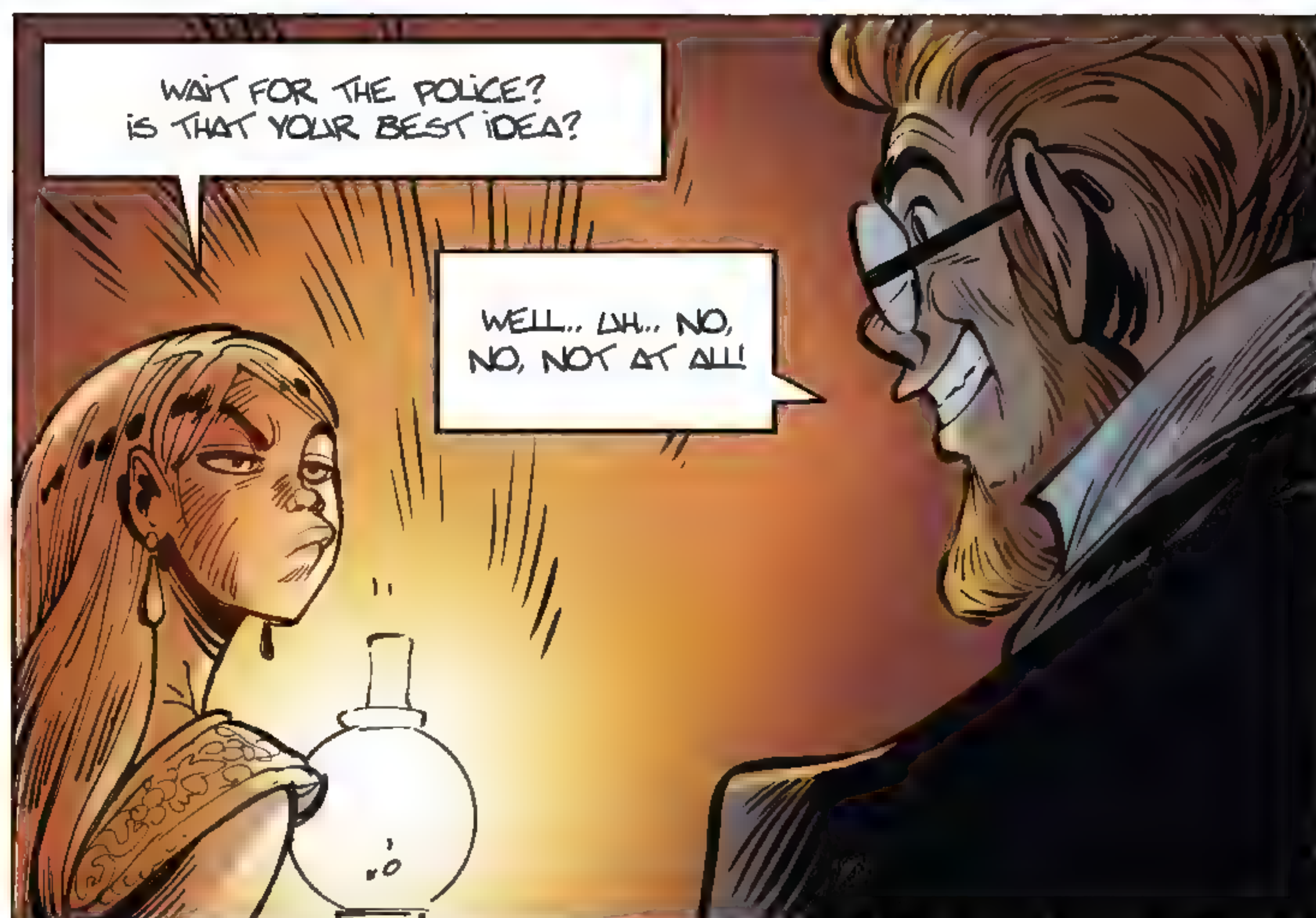
THERE, A PASSAGE.

GOOD JOB, THE POLICE WILL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

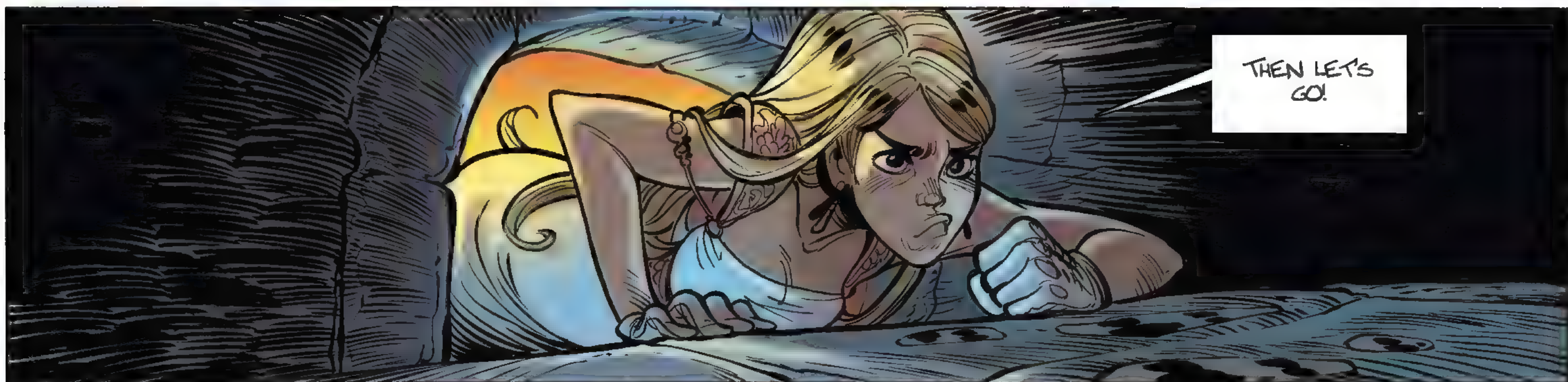


WAIT FOR THE POLICE? IS THAT YOUR BEST IDEA?

WELL... UH... NO, NO, NOT AT ALL!

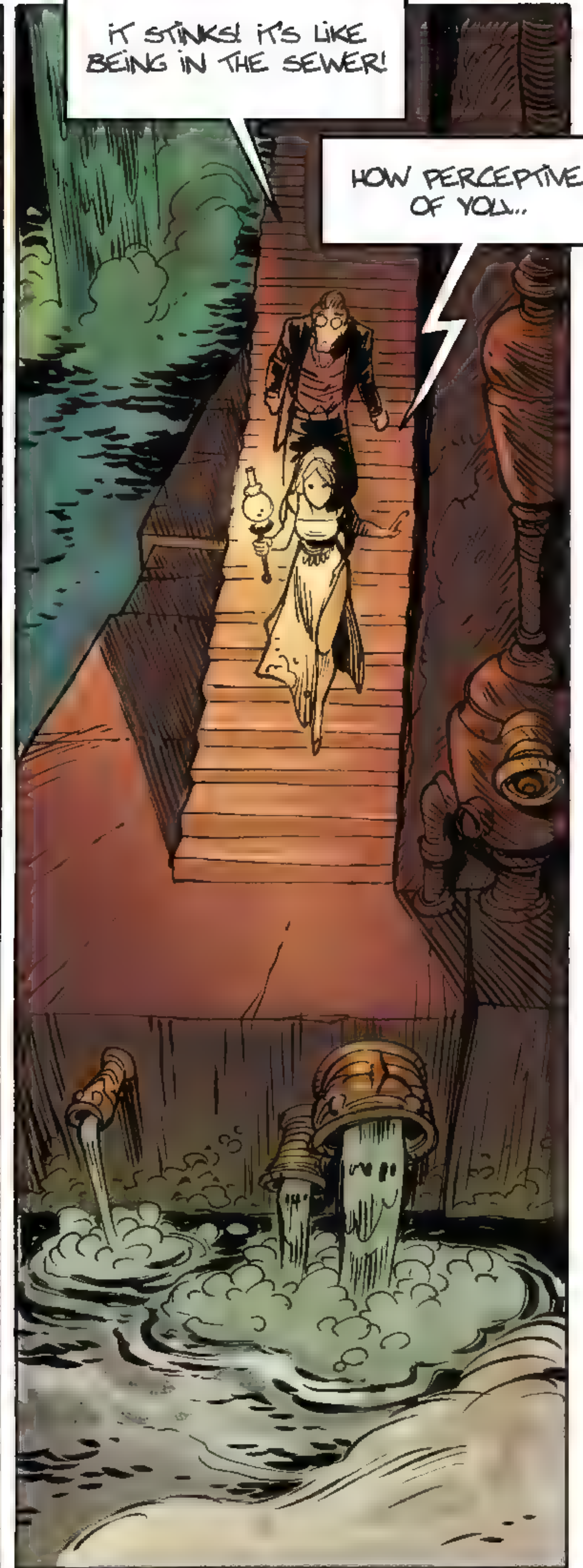


THEN LET'S GO!



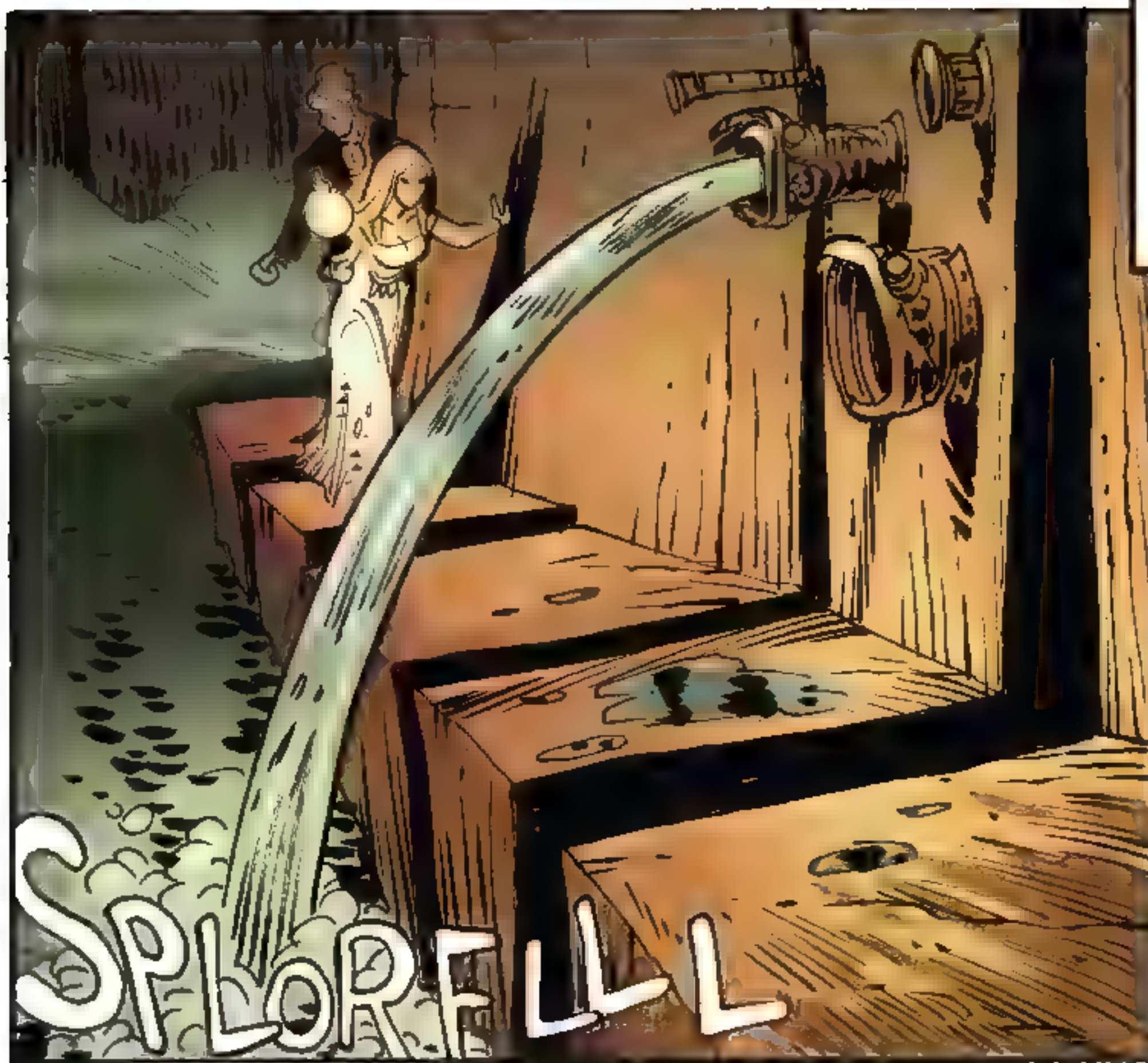


WOOW!



IT STINKS! IT'S LIKE BEING IN THE SEWER!

HOW PERCEPTIVE OF YOU...



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?



THIS IS PROBABLY WHERE THE KILLER GOT SOAKED, ON HIS WAY IN..

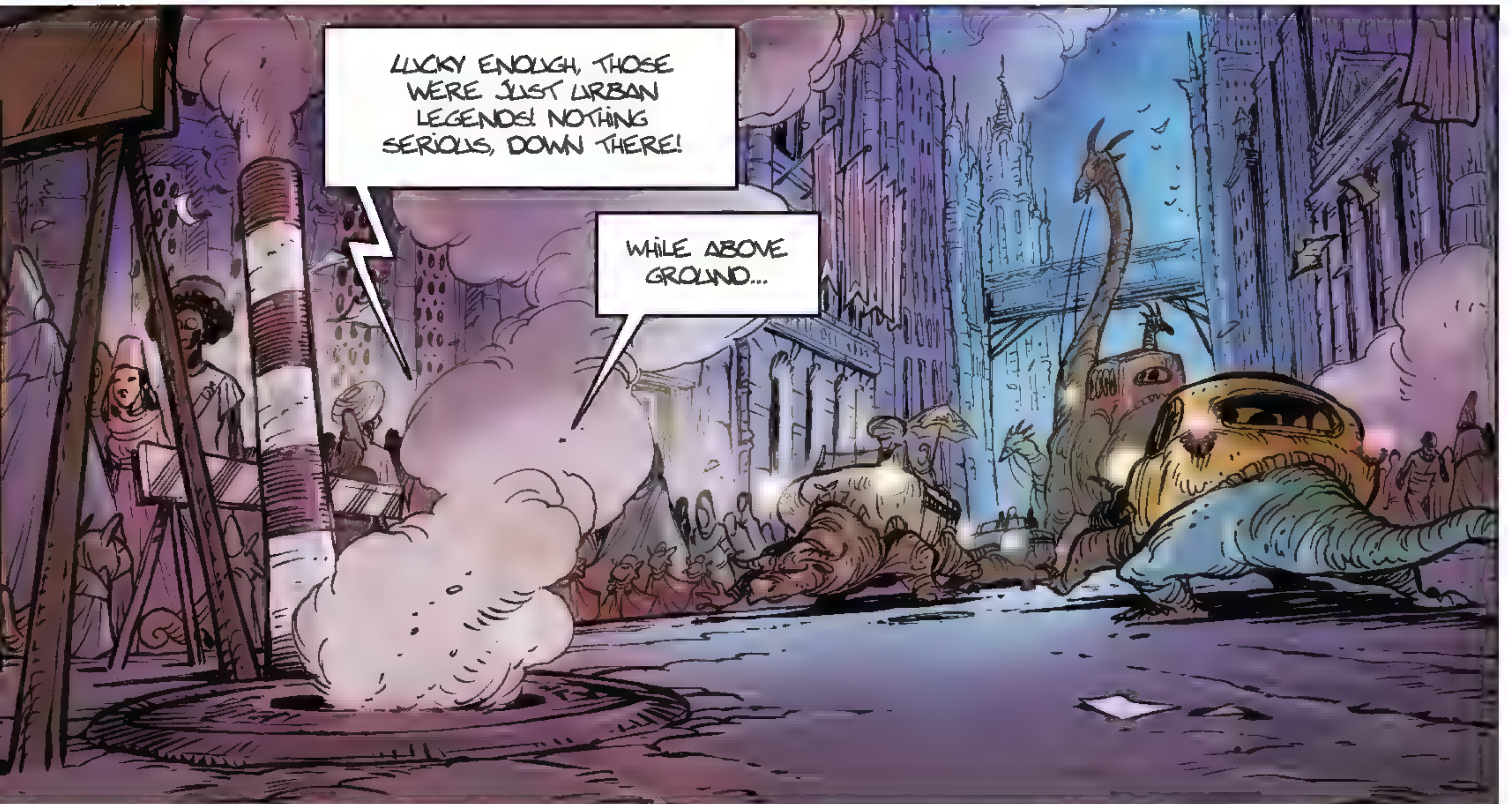


YOU KNOW, BACK IN THE REAL WORLD, THERE WERE RUMORS ABOUT NEW YORK SEWER...



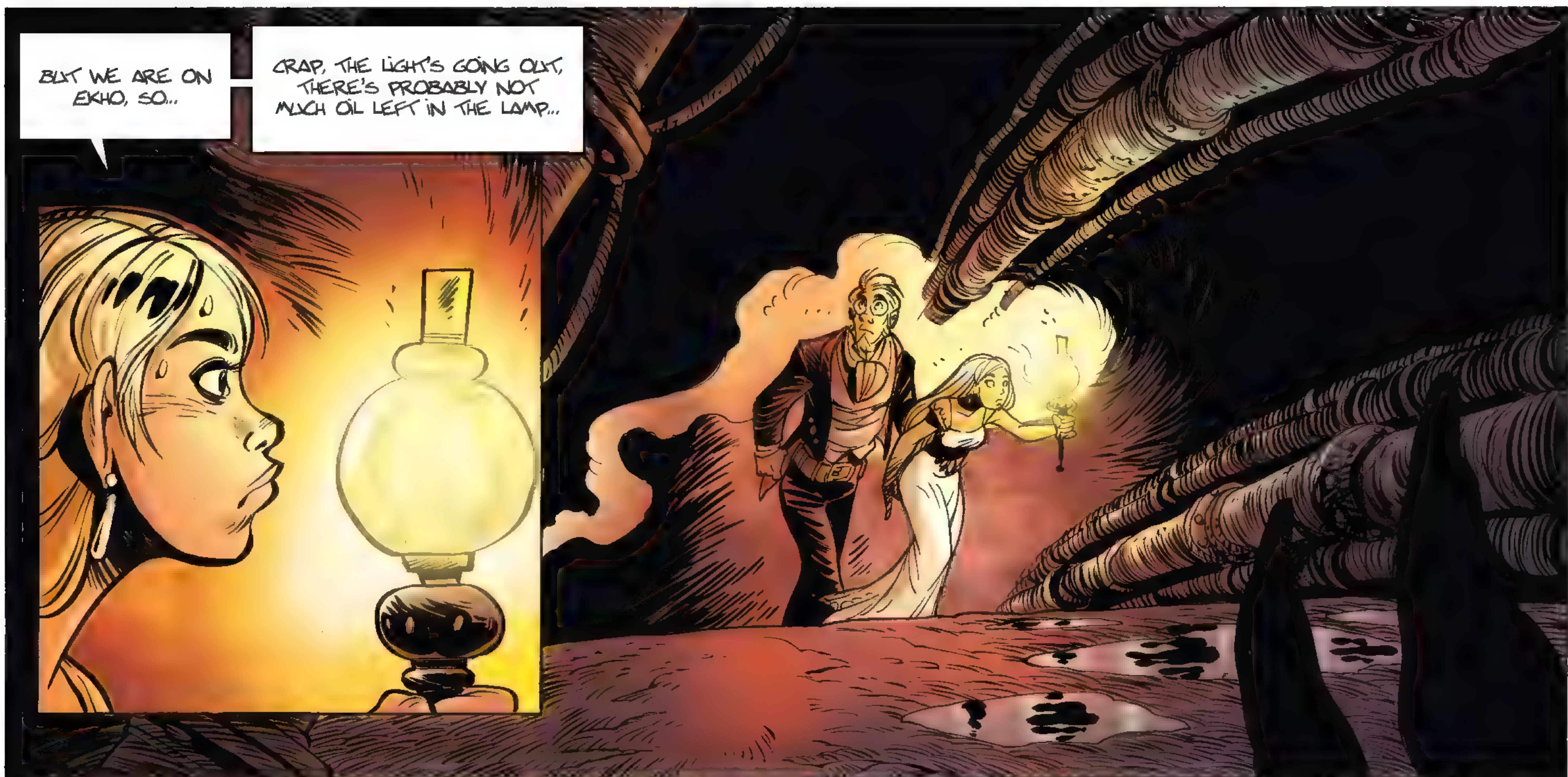
HA HA!

YEAH! STORIES ABOUT GIANT SNAKES AND EVEN ALLIGATORS!



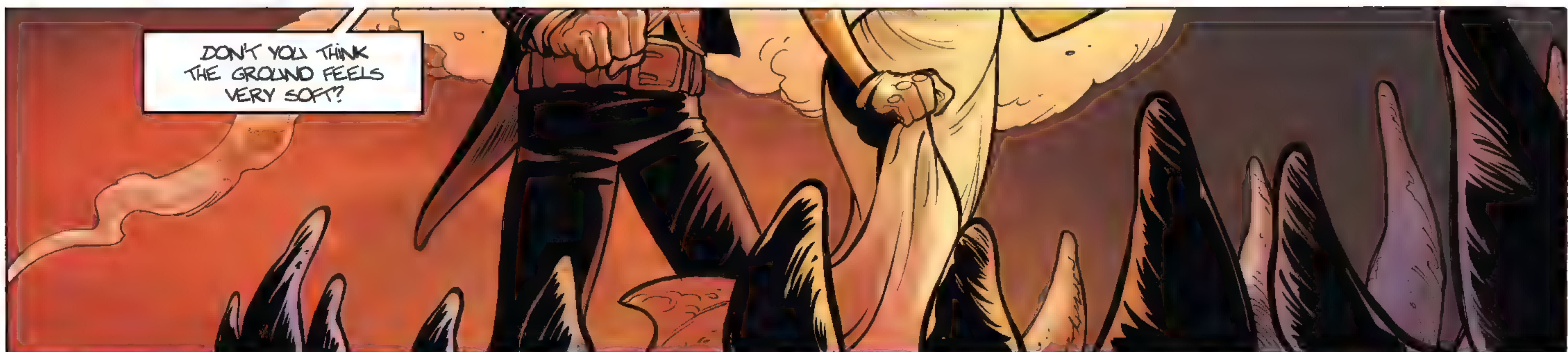
LUCKY ENOUGH, THOSE WERE JUST URBAN LEGENDS! NOTHING SERIOUS, DOWN THERE!

WHILE ABOVE GROUND...



BUT WE ARE ON
EKHO, SO...

CRAP, THE LIGHT'S GOING OUT,
THERE'S PROBABLY NOT
MUCH OIL LEFT IN THE LAMP...



DON'T YOU THINK
THE GROUND FEELS
VERY SOFT?



WE'RE PROBABLY WALKING ON
FILTH, I'D RATHER NOT LOOK.



STALAGMITES,
WE'RE IN A CAVE!



THERE ARE
STALACTITES
TOO.

AND WHAT
A SMELL!



UNDIGESTED ROTTEN
MEAT, I'D SAY.

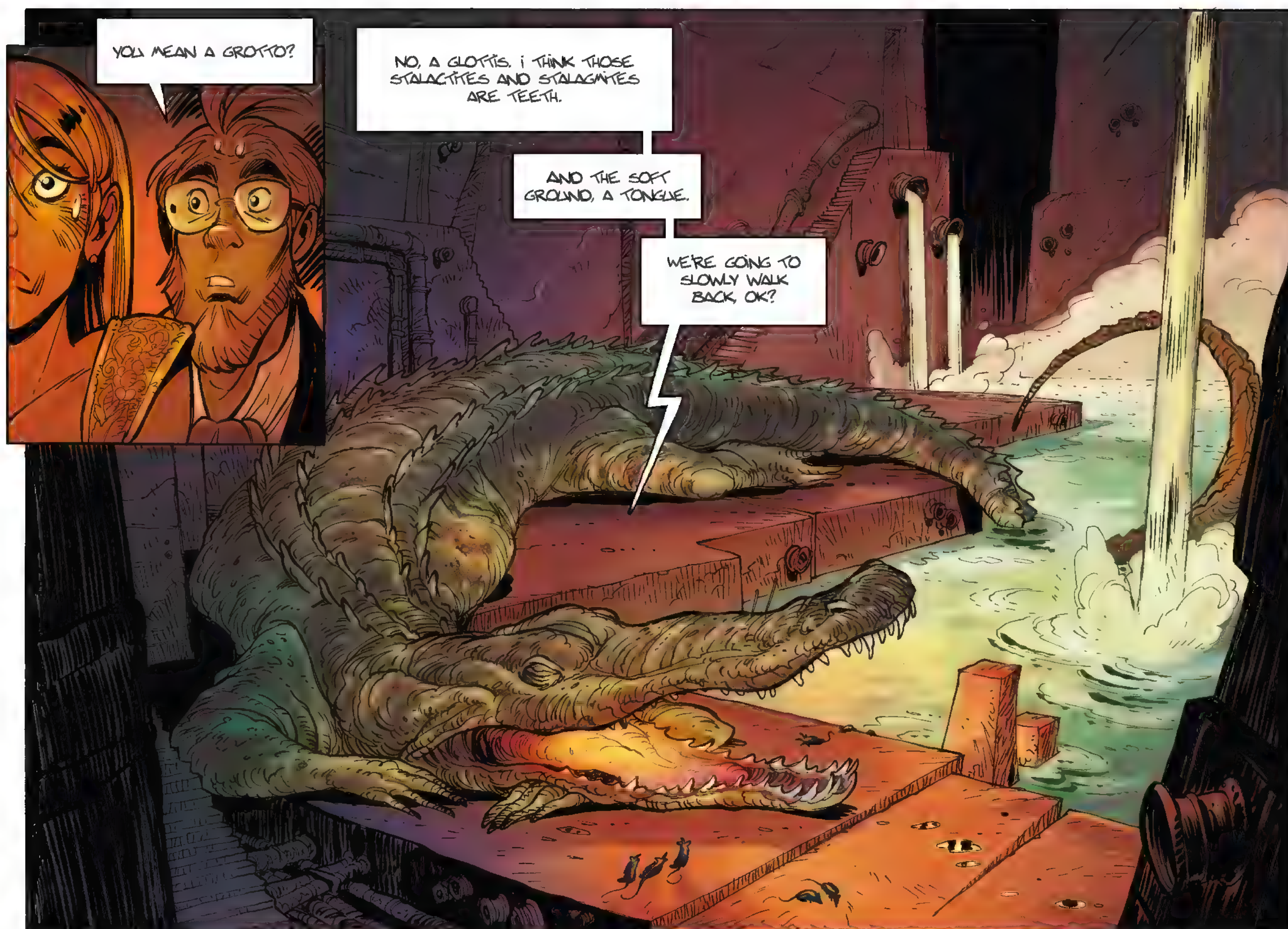
WELL, YOU KNOW,
WE'RE IN THE SEWER.



STOP.



IT'S SOFT, IT'S PINK, IT'S
HANGING DOWN... I THINK
THIS IS A GLOTTIS.



YOU MEAN A GROTTO?

NO, A GLOTTIS. I THINK THOSE
STALACTITES AND STALAGMITES
ARE TEETH.

AND THE SOFT
GROUND, A TONGUE.

WE'RE GOING TO
SLOWLY WALK
BACK, OK?



OH, NO! WE'RE
OUT OF OIL!

LET'S NOT PANIC,
OKAY?

N... NOT AT... A...
ALL, OF COURSE...

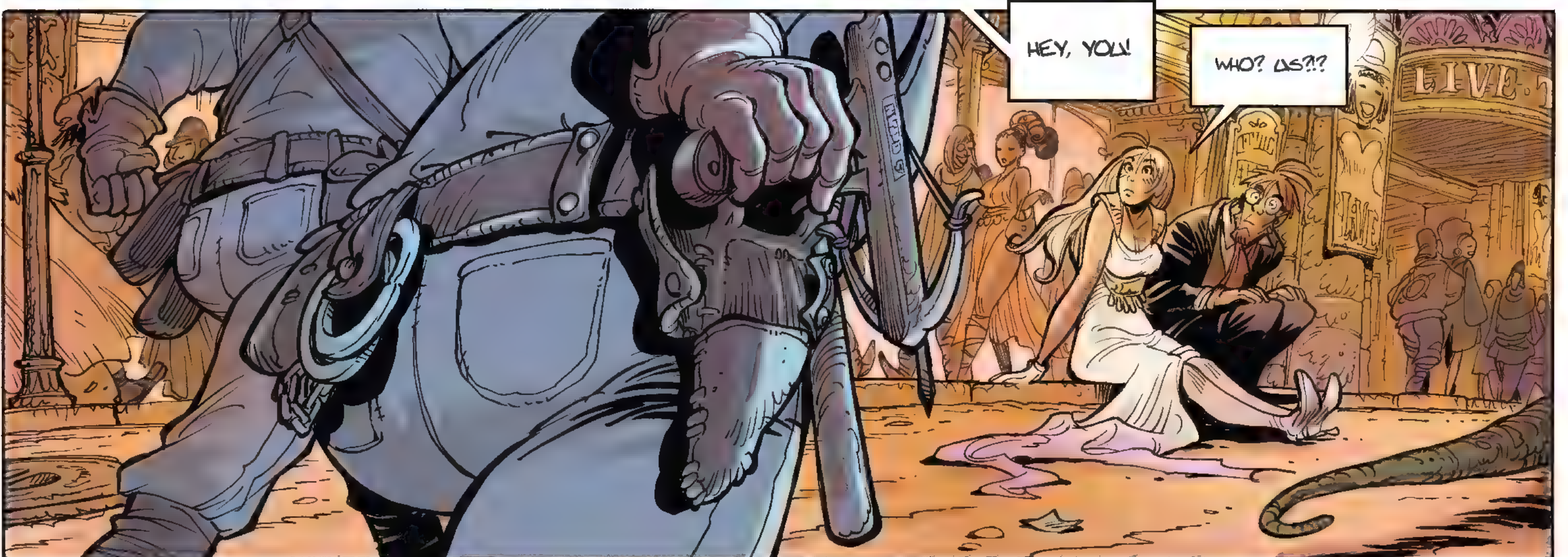
LET'S SAY THAT SCREAMING COULD
BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

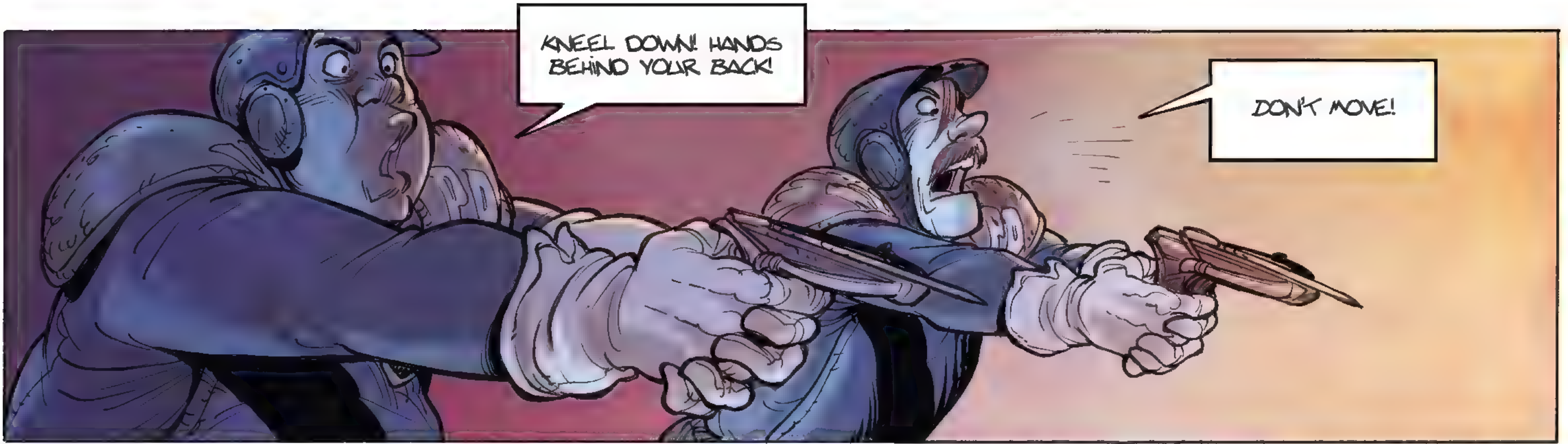
FOR INSTANCE, IF AN ALLIGATOR
WERE SLEEPING WITH HIS MOUTH
OPEN, WE SHOULDN'T GIVE HIM
THE IDEA TO SHUT IT.

i... T... TAKE NOTE.

WAIT! MY EYES
ARE GETTING
USED TO
THE DARKNESS..

THIS WAY!





KNEEL DOWN! HANDS
BEHIND YOUR BACK!

DON'T MOVE!

IT'S COMPLETELY
CONTRADICTIONARY.

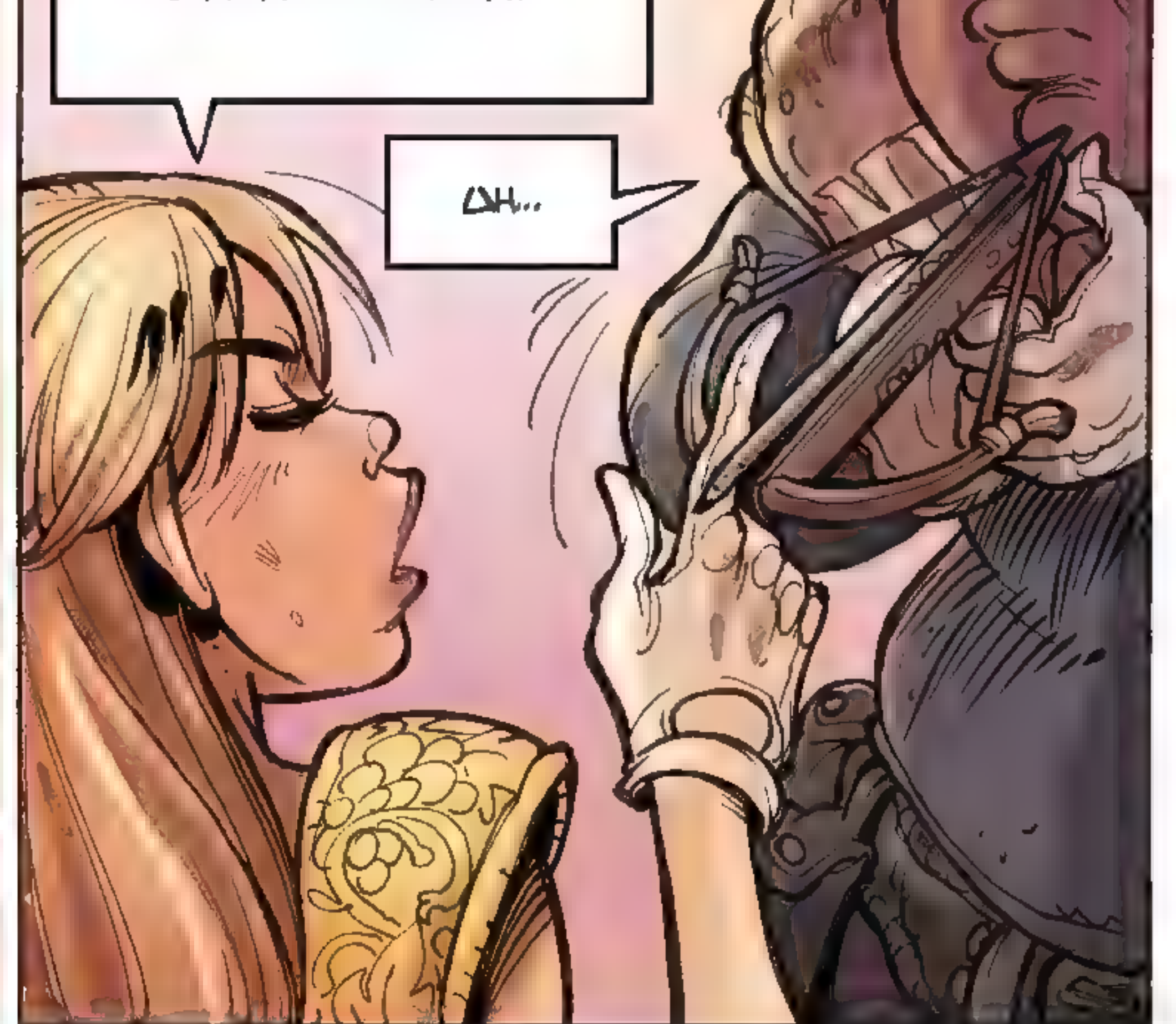
TO DO AS YOU SAY
WE HAVE TO MOVE...

DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
CLEVER?

WE KNOW WE ARE,
UNLIKE SOMEONE
ELSE HERE.

AND STOP WAVING THAT
THING, YOU'LL END UP
HURTING SOMEONE.

OH...



YOU CAN'T ESCAPE,
YOU ARE SURROUNDED.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR
THE MURDER OF ALEXANDRE
CHILLERON.

YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN
SILENT.

KLIK

WHAT???

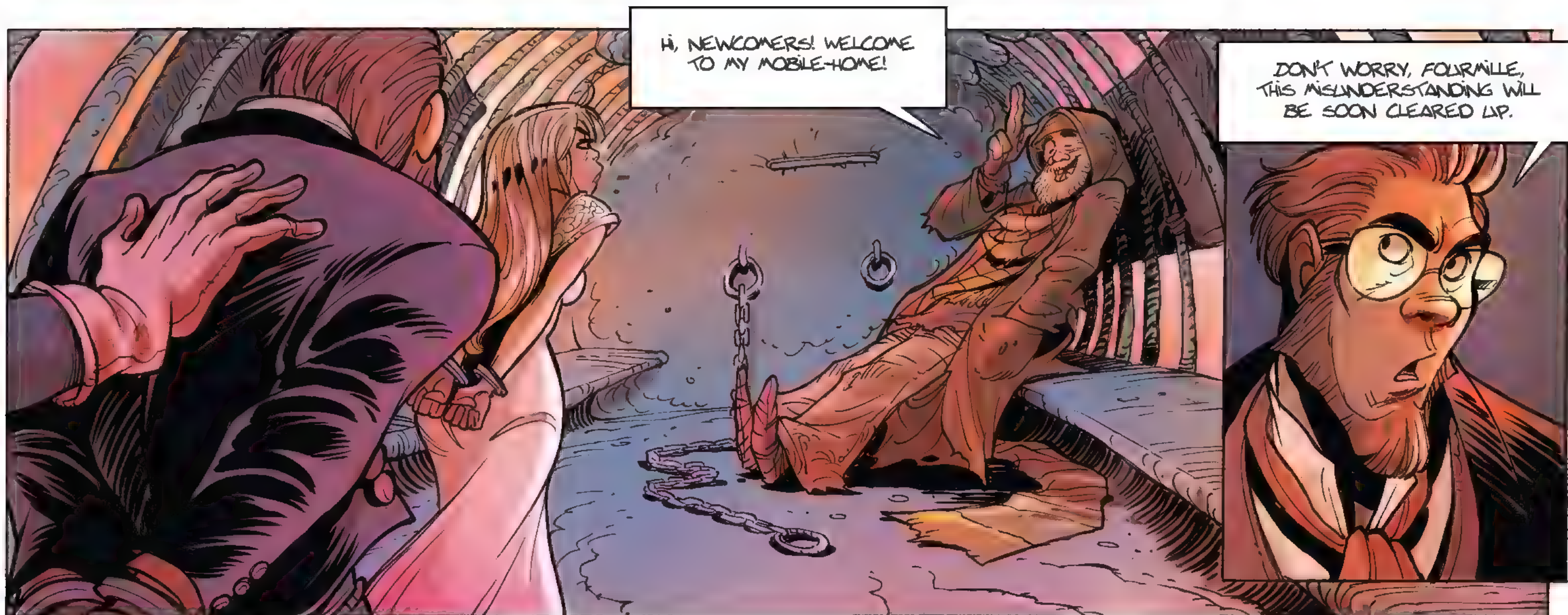
NONSENSE! WE FOUND THE BODY, ASK
THE MAITRE D! AND WE WERE CHASING
THE CRIMINAL WHEN WE ENDED UP IN
THAT CAVE AND...

SHHH! YOU HAVE
THE DUTY TO KEEP
SILENT, PLEASE.
YOU MAY TELL IT
TO THE DETECTIVES
IN CHARGE OF
THE CASE.

THEY THINK WE RAN
FROM THE CRIME
SCENE!

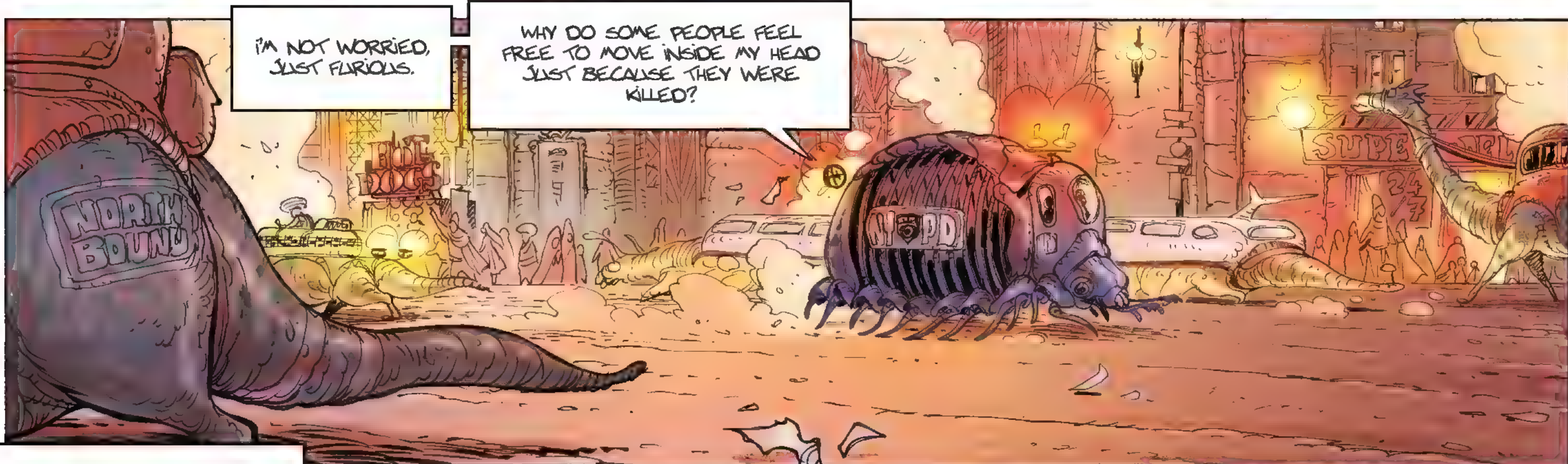
THEY THINK? PFFT!
I DON'T BELIEVE
THEY CAN DO SUCH
A THING!





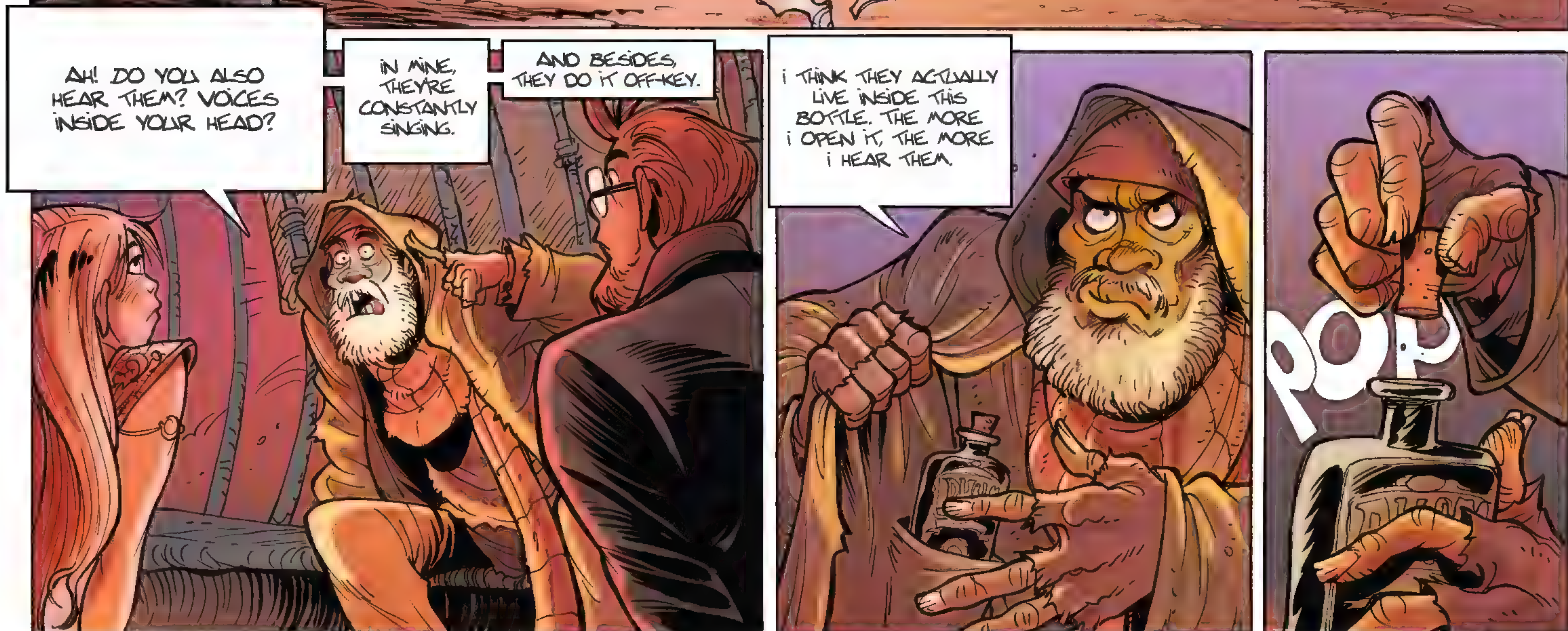
Hi, newcomers! Welcome to my mobile-home!

DON'T WORRY, FOURMILE, THIS MISUNDERSTANDING WILL BE SOON CLEARED UP.



I'M NOT WORRIED, JUST FURIOUS.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE FEEL FREE TO MOVE INSIDE MY HEAD JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE KILLED?

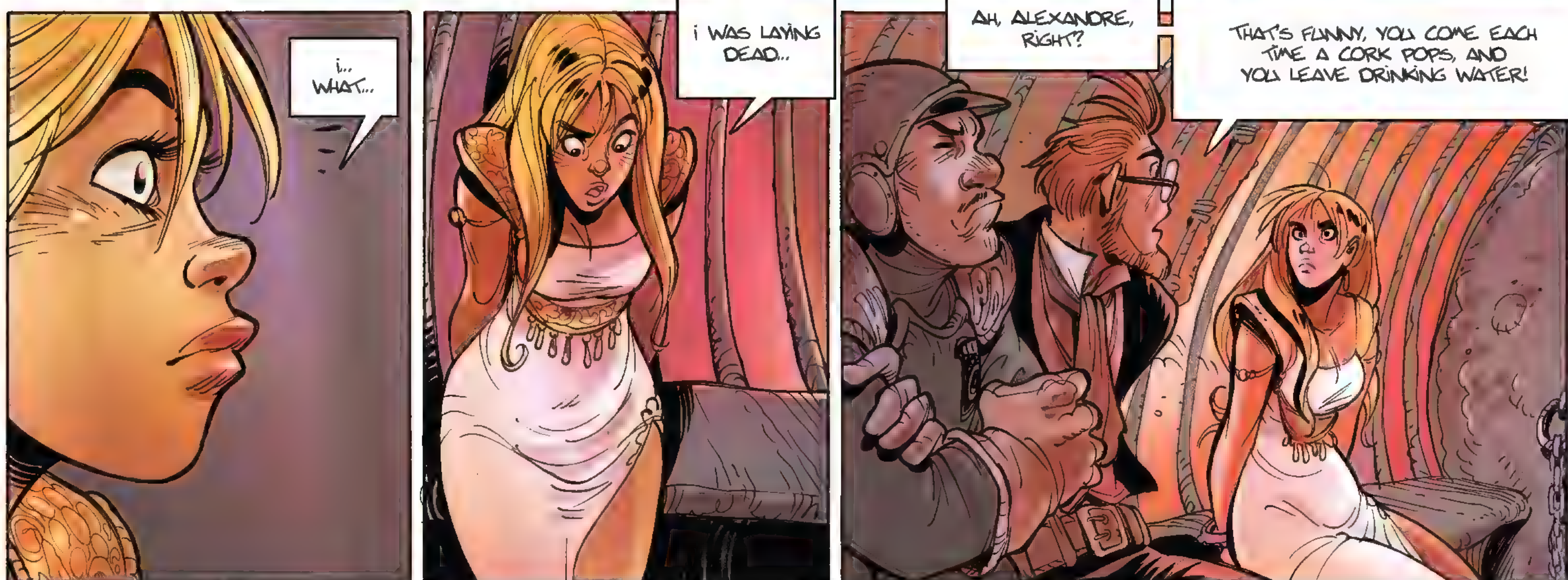


AH! DO YOU ALSO HEAR THEM? VOICES INSIDE YOUR HEAD?

IN MINE, THEY'RE CONSTANTLY SINGING.

AND BESIDES, THEY DO IT OFF-KEY.

I THINK THEY ACTUALLY LIVE INSIDE THIS BOTTLE. THE MORE I OPEN IT, THE MORE I HEAR THEM.

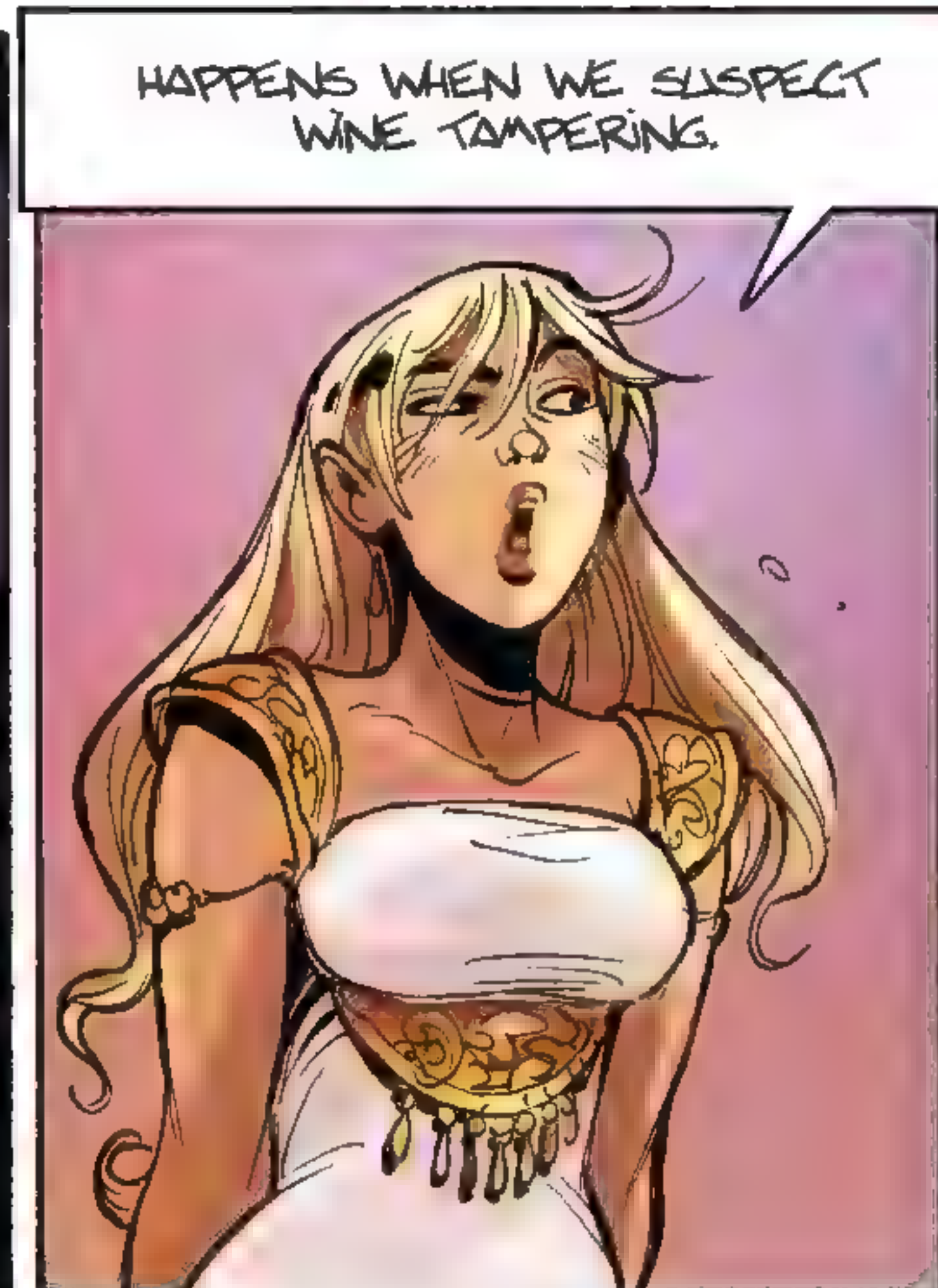
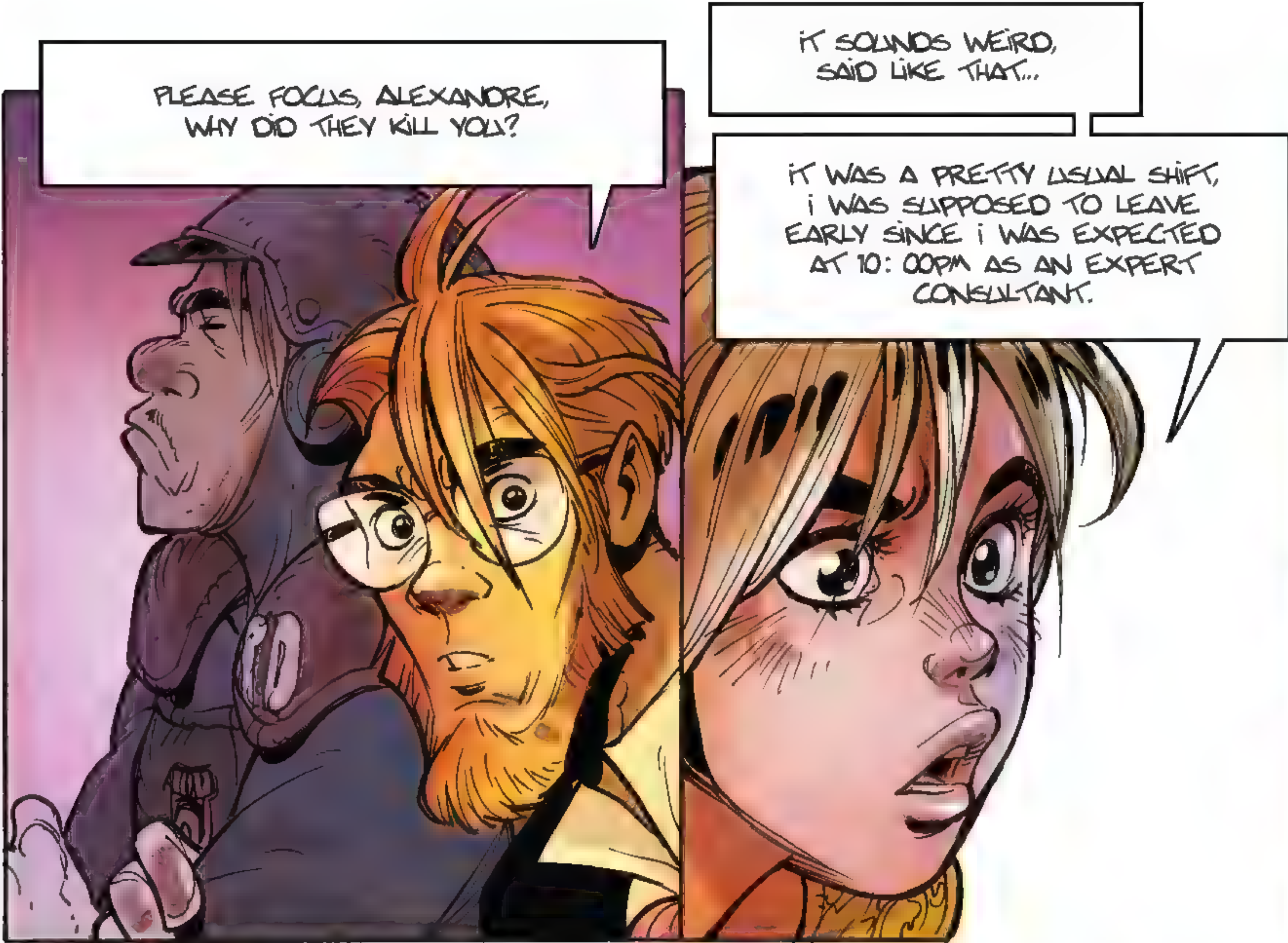


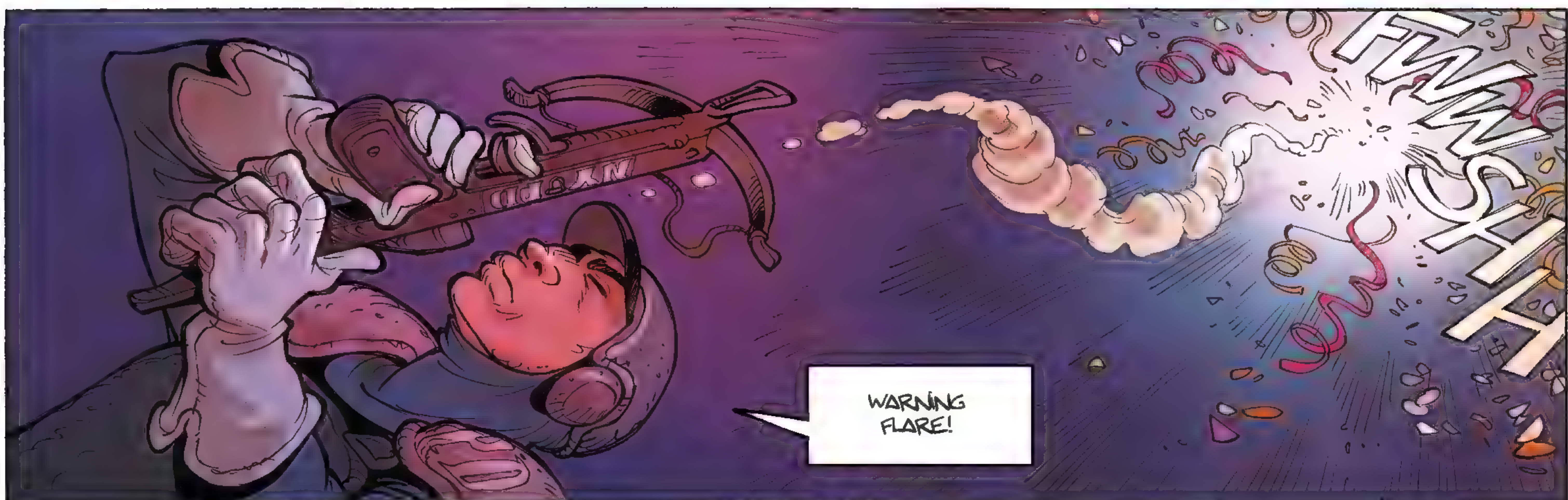
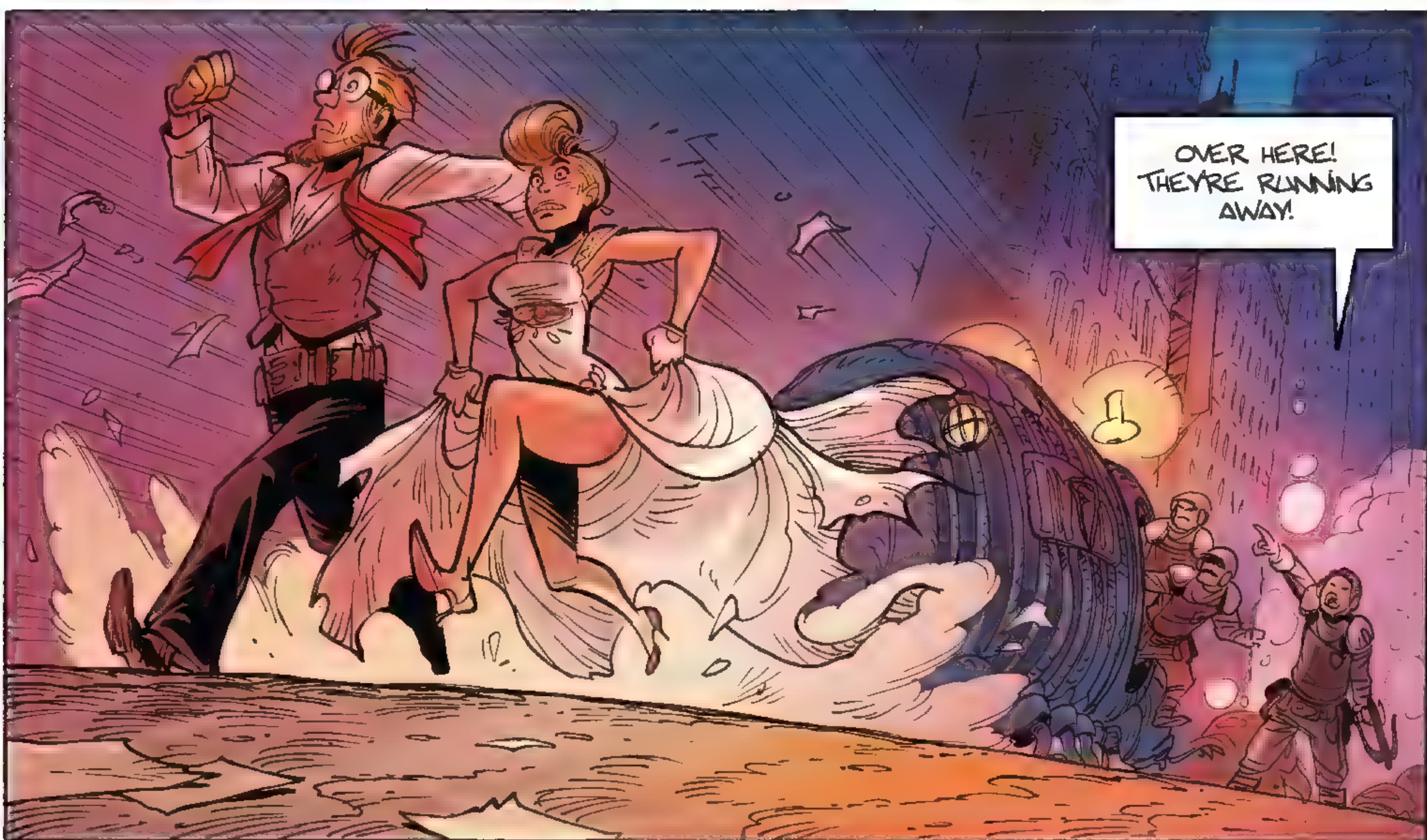
I... WHAT...

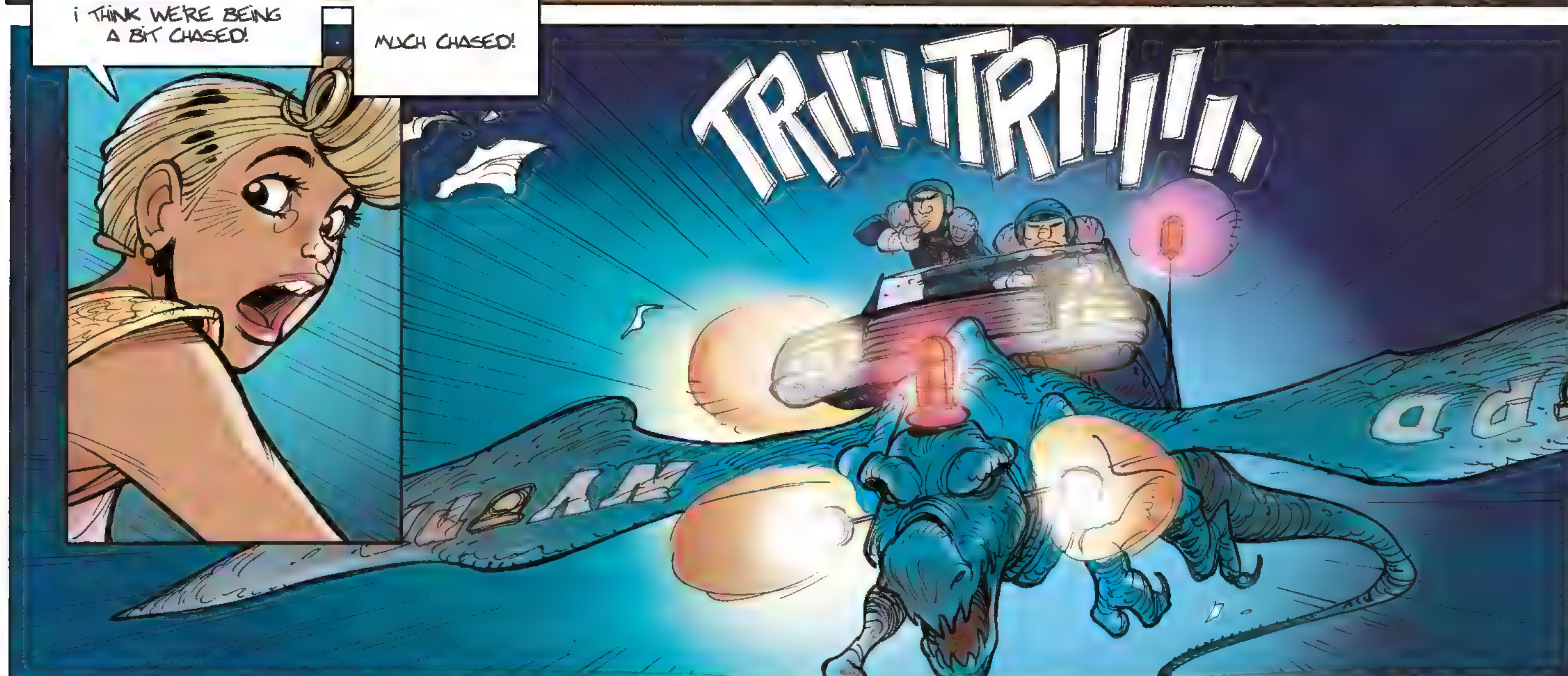
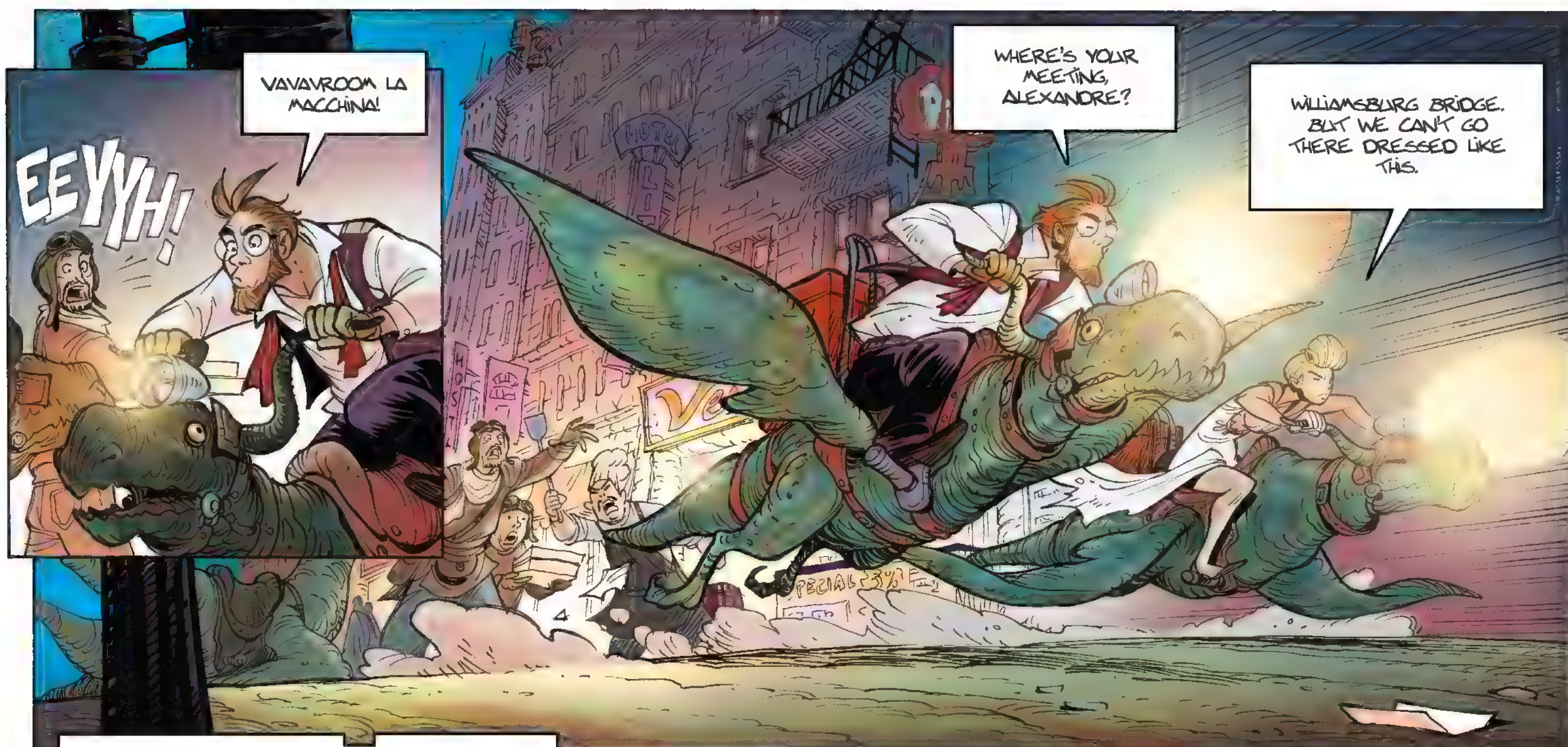
I WAS LAYING DEAD...

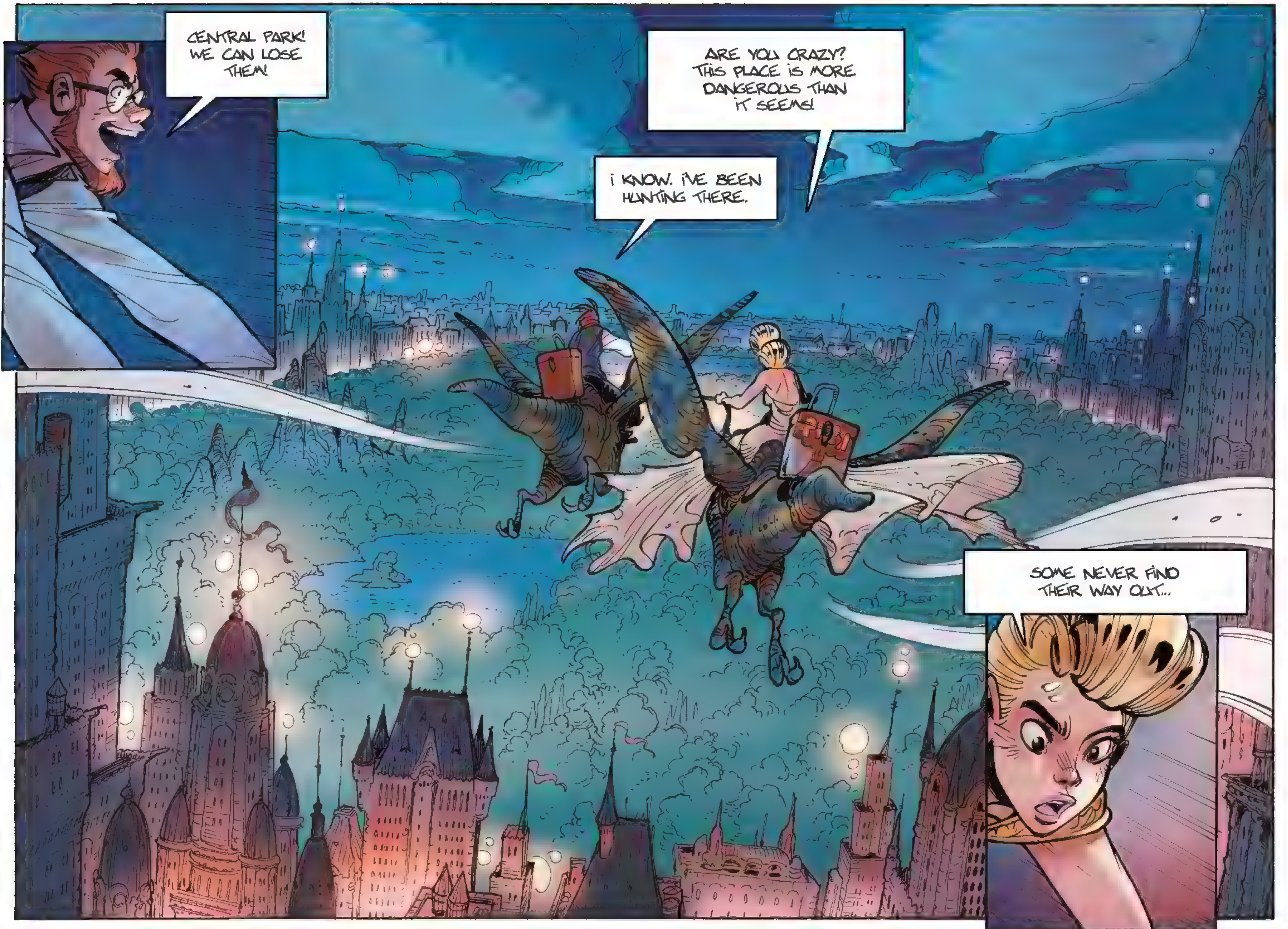
AH, ALEXANDRE, RIGHT?

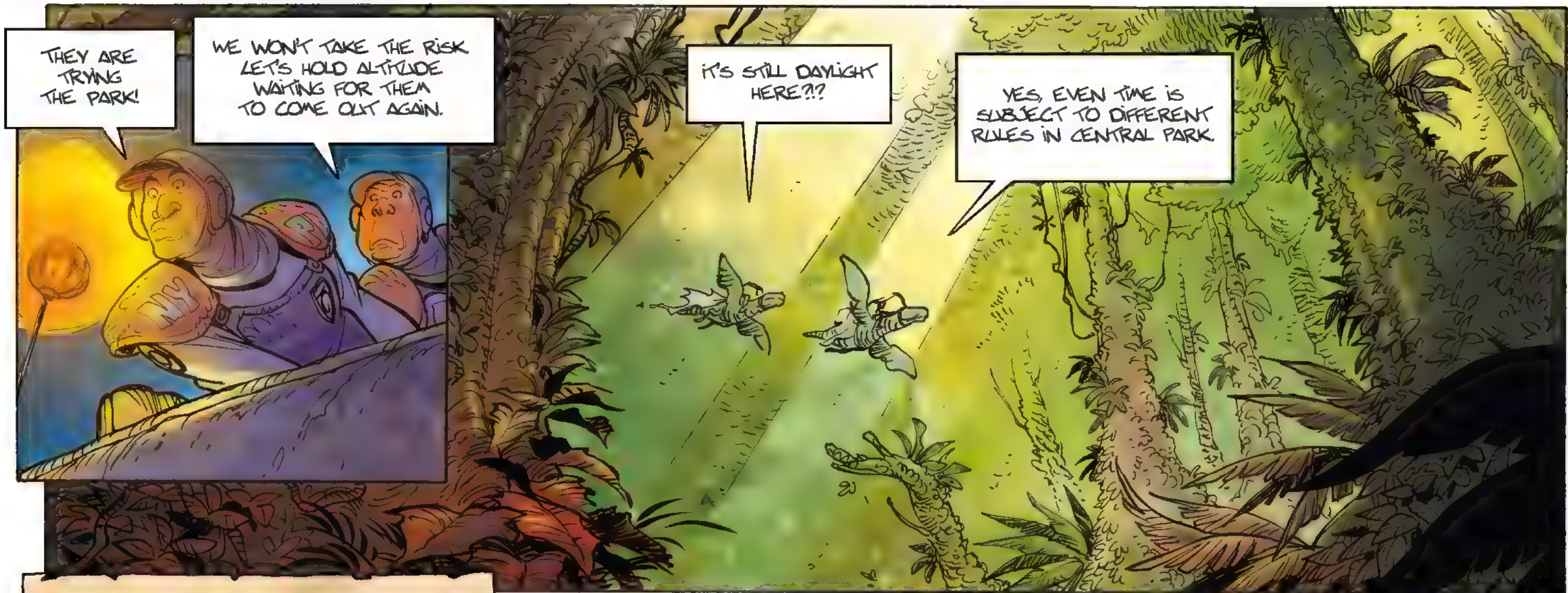
THAT'S FUNNY, YOU COME EACH TIME A CORK POPS, AND YOU LEAVE DRINKING WATER!











THEY ARE TRYING THE PARK!

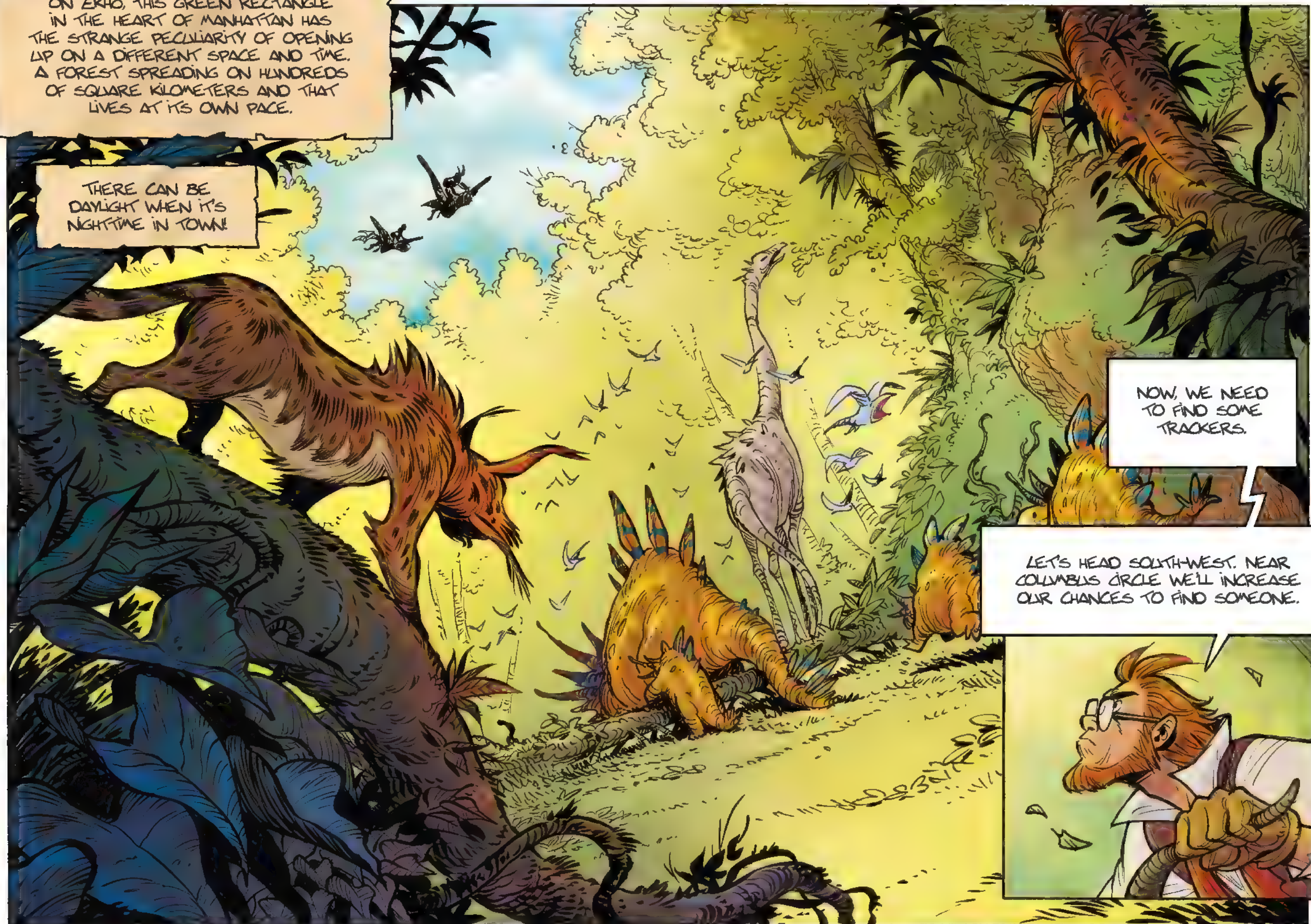
WE WON'T TAKE THE RISK LET'S HOLD ALTITUDE WAITING FOR THEM TO COME OUT AGAIN.

IT'S STILL DAYLIGHT HERE???

YES EVEN TIME IS SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT RULES IN CENTRAL PARK.

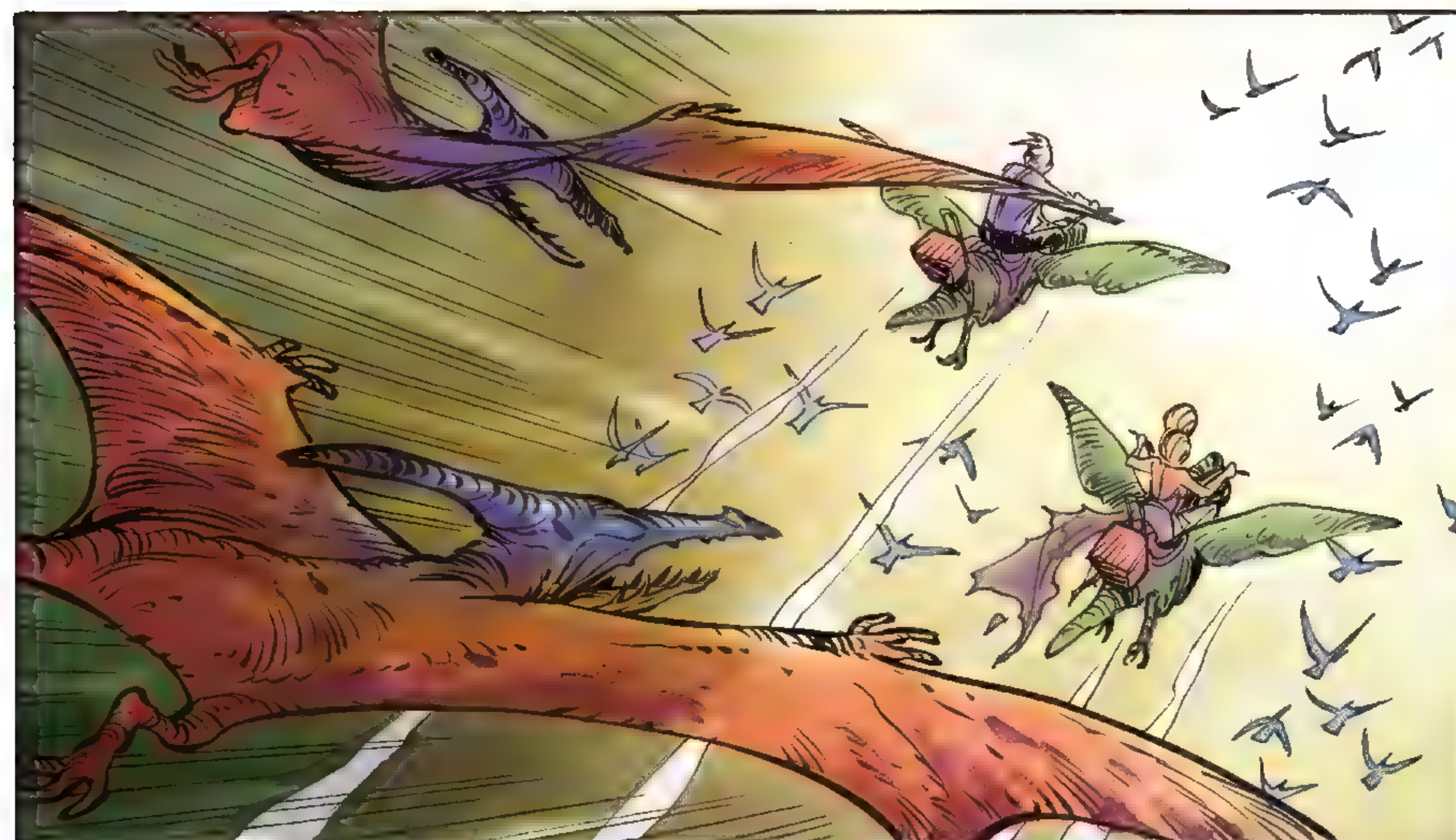
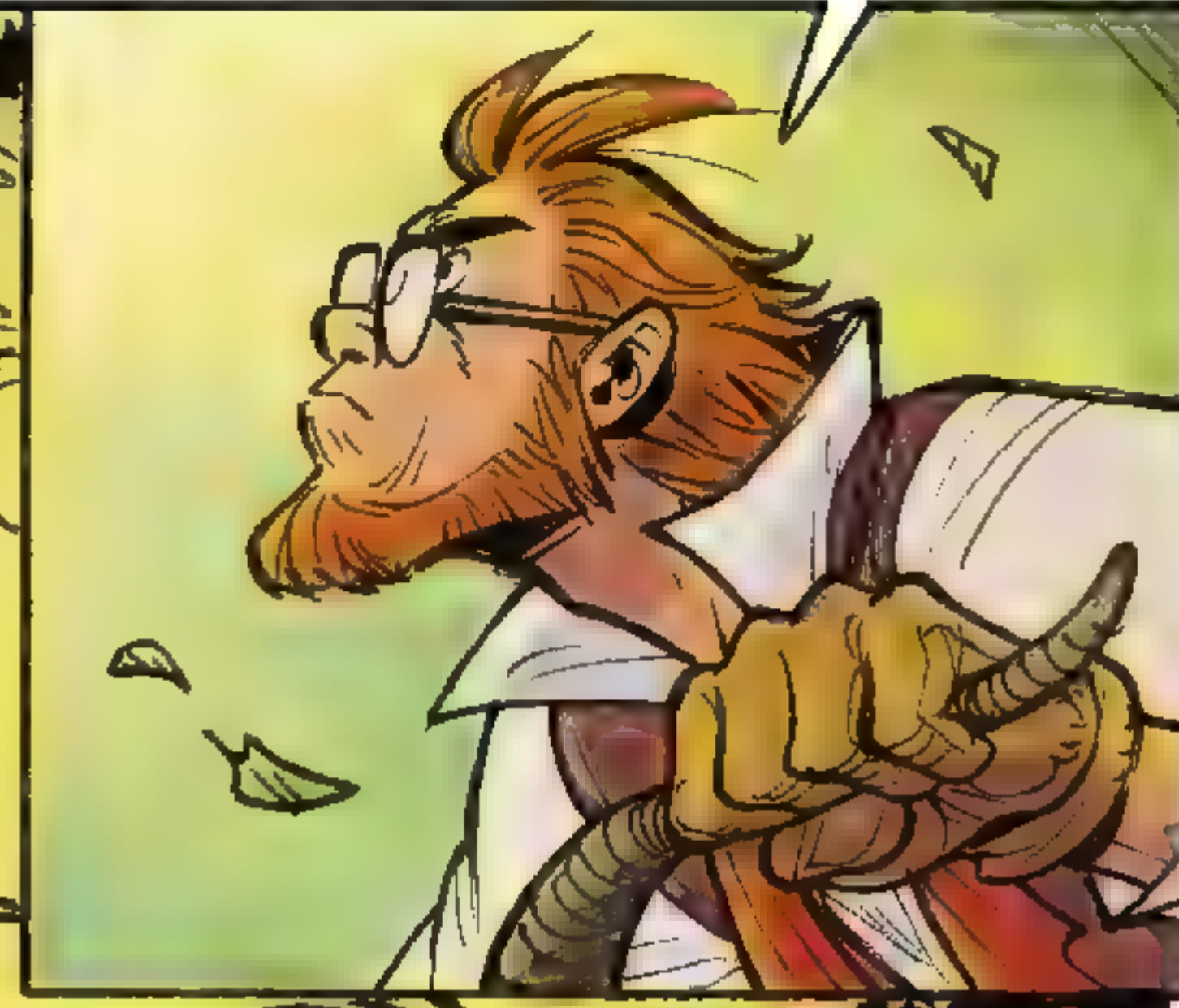
ON EKHÖ, THIS GREEN RECTANGLE IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN HAS THE STRANGE PECULIARITY OF OPENING UP ON A DIFFERENT SPACE AND TIME. A FOREST SPREADING ON HUNDREDS OF SQUARE KILOMETERS AND THAT LIVES AT ITS OWN PACE.

THERE CAN BE DAYLIGHT WHEN IT'S NIGHTTIME IN TOWN!



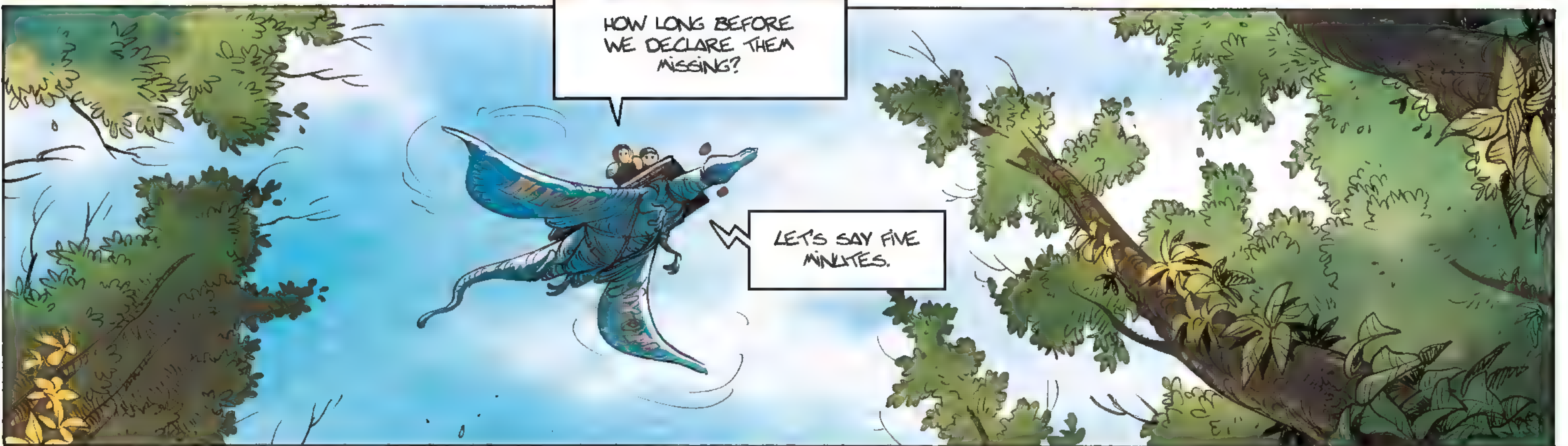
NOW, WE NEED TO FIND SOME TRACKERS.

LET'S HEAD SOUTHWEST. NEAR COLUMBUS CIRCLE WE'LL INCREASE OUR CHANCES TO FIND SOMEONE.





THROW THEM SOME PIZZA, IT WILL CALM THEM DOWN!



HOW LONG BEFORE WE DECLARE THEM MISSING?

LET'S SAY FIVE MINUTES.



HELLO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

??



I'VE GOT A LITTLE FAVOR TO ASK, YOU CAN HAVE THOSE TWO DRAGONS AND A FOUR-CHEESE PIZZA WITH EXTRA PEPPER IN EXCHANGE...



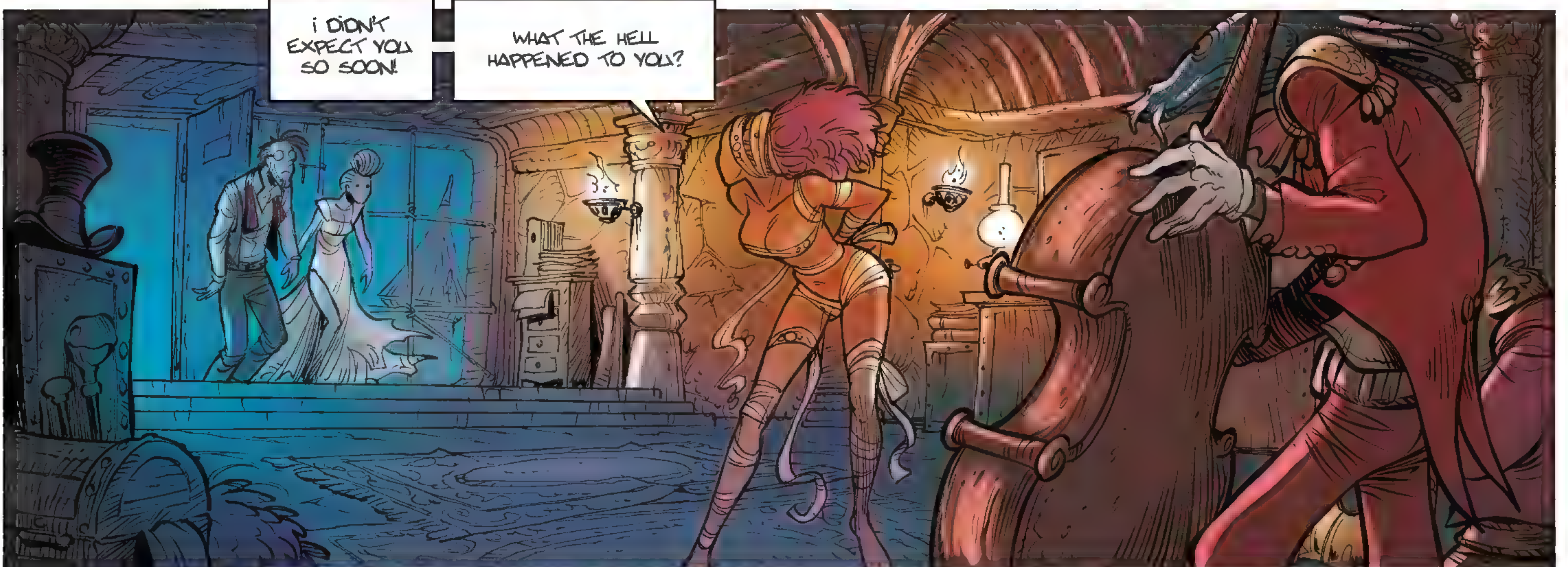
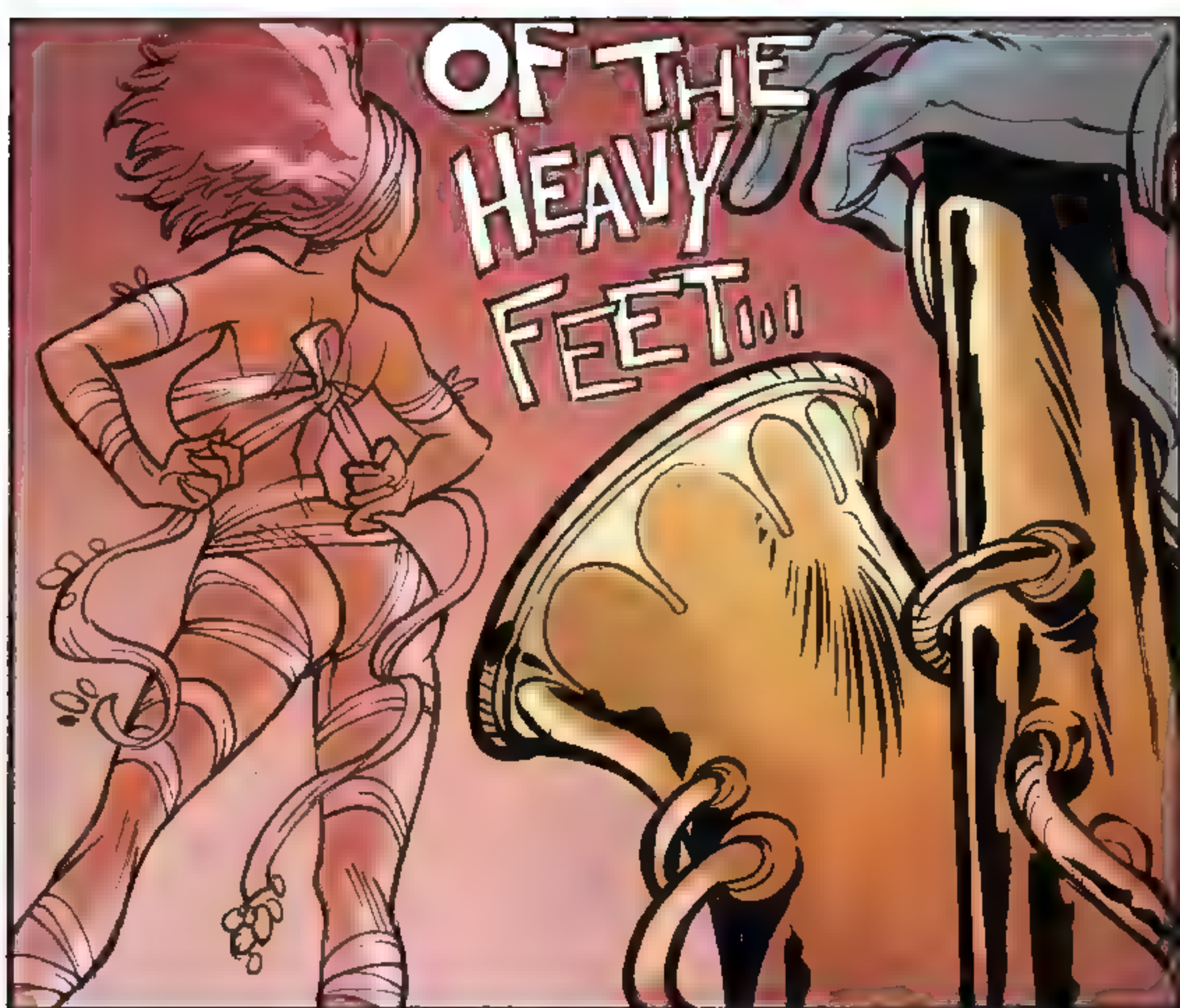
BUT WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE IN FIVE MINUTES!

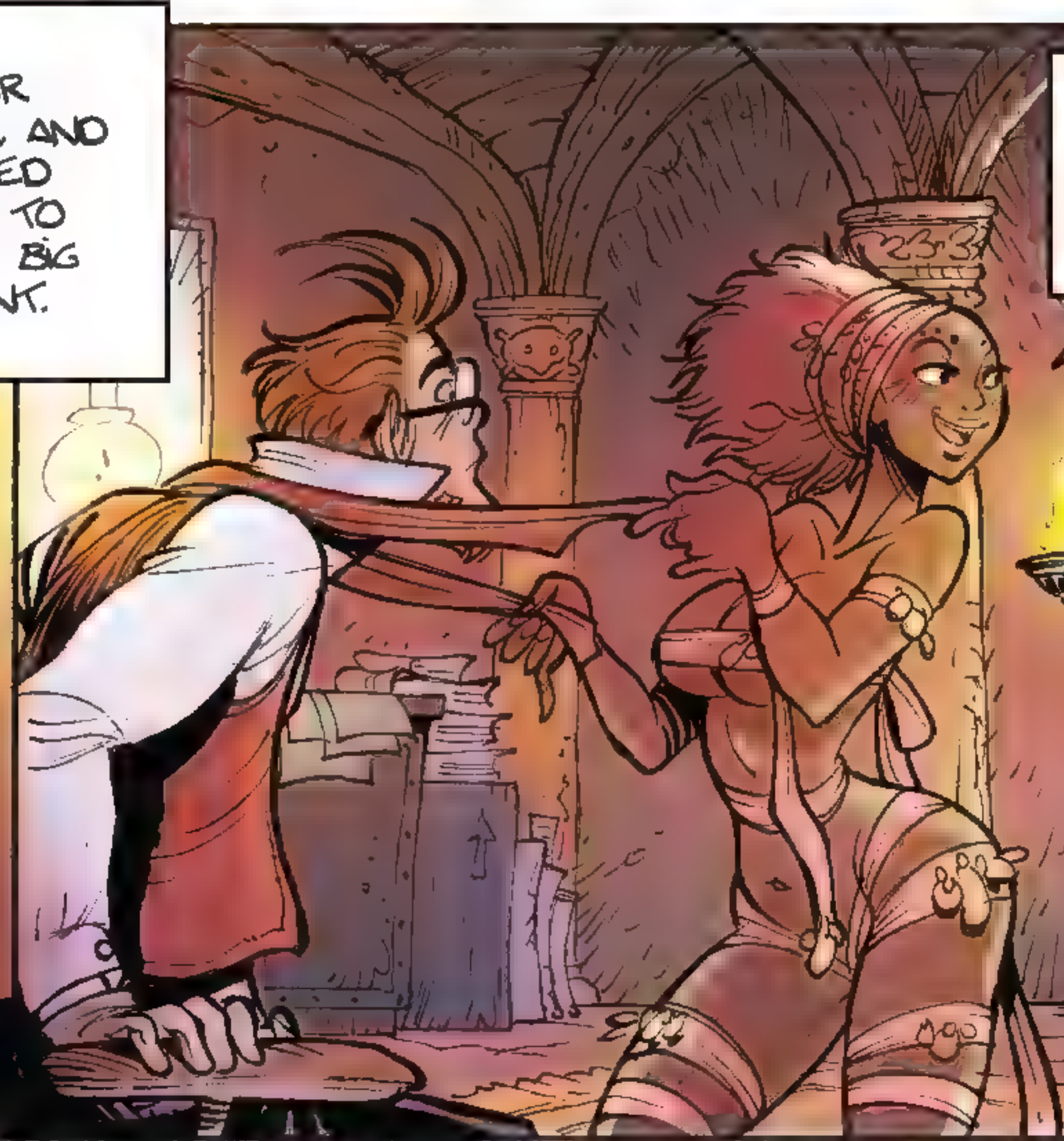


IF YOU HAVE SPICY OIL TOO, THAT CAN BE ARRANGED, WE KNOW SOME SHORTCUTS.

UPON ARRIVING ON EKHO, FOURMILLE
INHERITED GRATUITE TALENT AGENCY,
BUT THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY KEEPS
IT IN BUSINESS IS GRACE LUMUMBA.

ASSISTANT DURING THE DAY,
ON A SHOW OR REHEARSING
AT NIGHT.





ORPHEA TAO DANG WAS ONE OF THE RICHEST PERSON IN NEW YORK. SHE MADE HER FORTUNE WITH WINE THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET IN CHINA, WHICH SHE FLOODED WITH VINTAGE WINES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, FROM NAPA VALLEY TO THE RHÔNE, FROM CAPE TOWN HILLS TO CHAMBERTIN.

IT WAS WHISPERED THAT HER BORDEAUX CAME DIRECT FROM FRANCE AND THAT SHE REFUSED TO BE IN THE BEAULOUAIS BUSINESS, THAT IS TO SAY IN THE FIELD OF OENOLOGY SHE WAS A SERIOUS PARTNER.

AND NO ONE KNOWS ON WHAT WHIM SHE DECIDED TO BUILD THE FIRST SEMI-AQUATIC BUILDING IN TOWN.



WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
I HOPE YOUR CLIENT
WILL LET US ALL IN.

HE'S SOMEONE WITH
A LOT OF PULL.

COULD YOU PLEASE STOP
SMOKING? IT TOTALLY
INTERFERES WITH
MY SENSE OF SMELL.



WHAT ELSE, BABE?
DO YOU WANT
ME TO POLISH
YOUR PUMPS?



SO, FIRST, THIS JERK'S
GONNA APOLOGIZE...



AND AS FOR THIS
AWFUL SMOKE...



HE'S GONNA
EAT IT UP!



WE'LL WALK
THE REST OF
THE WAY, OK?

YES WE'RE
NOT THAT
FAR ANYMORE.



A FRESHMAN CALLED VAN
PIPERZEEL, SERIOUSLY???

ALCIDOR-METAPHRASTE
VAN PIPERZEEL, I FAIL
TO SEE WHAT CAUSES
YOU TO SMILE, SIR

DO WE KNOW
EACH OTHER?

MY APOLOGIES FOR THIS SLIGHT DELAY,
MISTER VAN PIPERZEEL, I AM ALEXANDRE,
THE SOMMELIER

ALEXANDRE IS AN OVERWEIGHT
MAN IN HIS 40S, WITH AN ESTHETICALLY
QUESTIONABLE MOUSTACHE.

YOU ASKED
ME TO COME IN
DISGUISE, I DID
MY BEST.

MHHH..

TELL ME WHAT'S
IN HERE.

A TYPICAL SUNNY NOTE, HEATH, RIPE FRUITS
AND BLACK OLIVES WITH SOME EMERGING
UNDERGROWTH, THEN TRUFFLE... THIS IS A
BLEND, MOURVEDRE AND SYRAH, A TOUCH
OF CABERNET SAUVIGNON.. REALLY EASY,
WE'RE IN THE HILLS OF MONTPELLIER

LA GRANGE DES PÈRES,
AND GIVEN ITS EVOLUTION,
1999 WITHOUT DOUBT.

YOU OPENED IT
THIS MORNING,
AT ABOUT 10.30.

WELL

CONGRATULATIONS
ON THE DISGUISE.

SURPRISING.

AND WHO ARE
THESE PEOPLE?

YURI PODROV
AND GRACE
LUMUMBA,
GRATIE
AGENCY, SIR

THE WINE TASTING FOR WHICH
YOU REQUIRED ALEXANDRE'S
SERVICE SEEMS TO HIDE
COMPLEX ISSUES. WE ARE
HERE TONIGHT TO MAKE
SURE EVERYBODY STAYS SAFE.

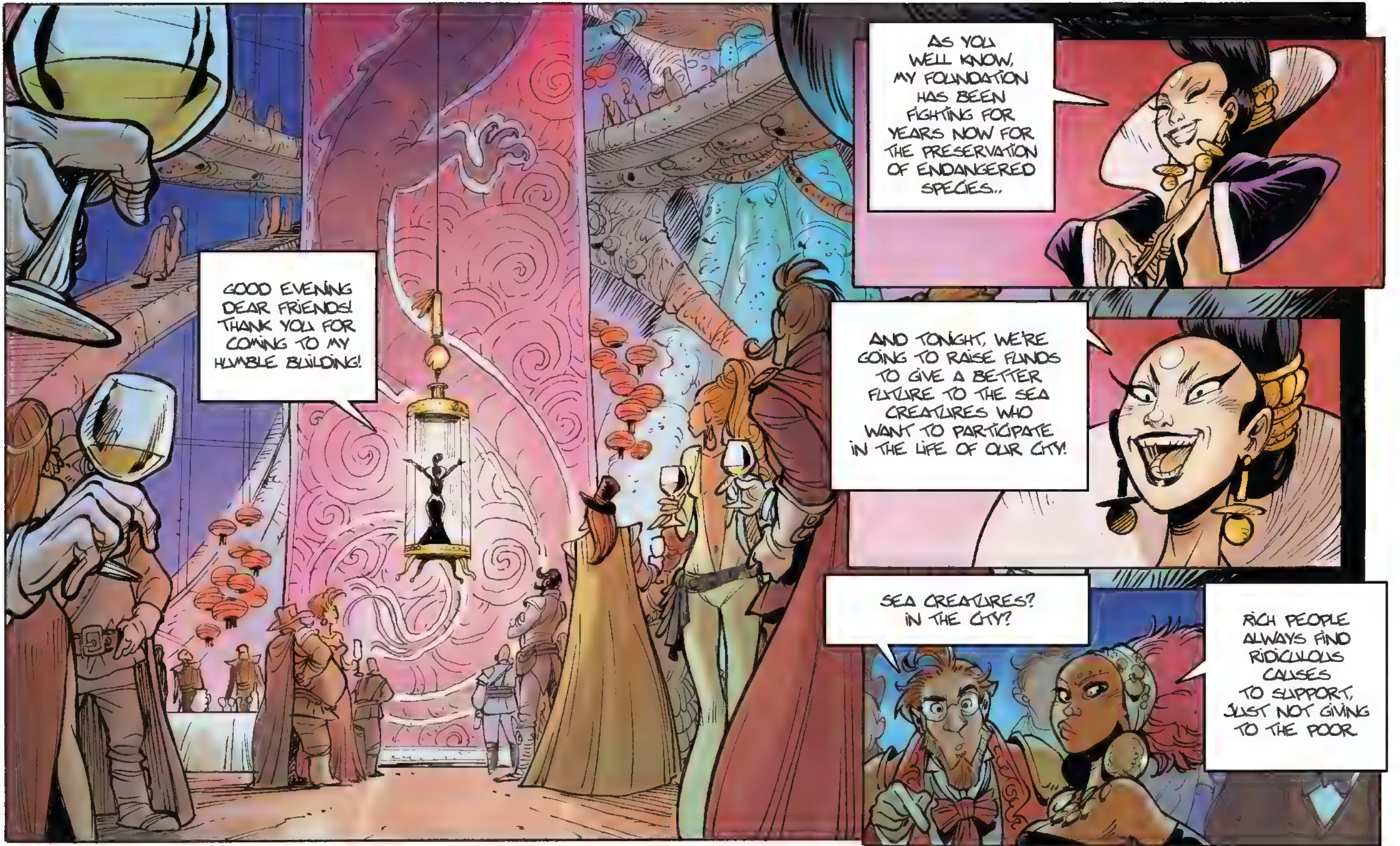
AND TASTE
THE VINTAGE
WINES IF
NECESSARY,
I BET?

OUR PROFESSIONALISM
CAN TAKE US THAT
FAR, IF NECESSARY.

MISTER VAN
PIPERZEEL, WHY
DID YOU NEED
ALEXANDRE'S
SERVICES TONIGHT?

HUNDREDS OF THE MOST
PRESTIGIOUS WINES ARE
GOING TO BE TASTED
AND SOLD FOR MISS TAO
DIJANG'S CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION..

I WANT TO MAKE
SURE EVERYTHING
IS.. IN ORDER



GOOD EVENING
DEAR FRIENDS!
THANK YOU FOR
COMING TO MY
HUMBLE BUILDING!

AS YOU
WELL KNOW,
MY FOUNDATION
HAS BEEN
FIGHTING FOR
YEARS NOW FOR
THE PRESERVATION
OF ENDANGERED
SPECIES...

AND TONIGHT, WE'RE
GOING TO RAISE FUNDS
TO GIVE A BETTER
FUTURE TO THE SEA
CREATURES WHO
WANT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE LIFE OF OUR CITY!

SEA CREATURES?
IN THE CITY?

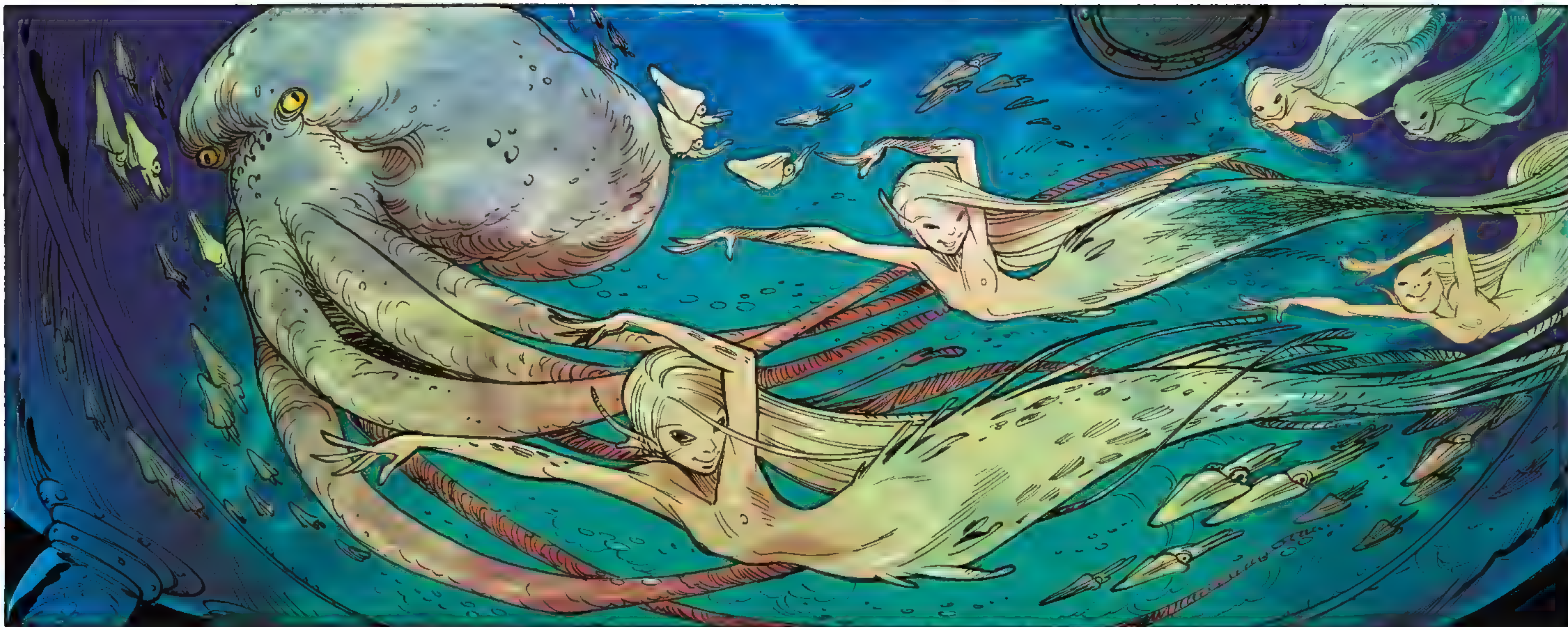
RICH PEOPLE
ALWAYS FIND
RIDICULOUS
CAUSES
TO SUPPORT,
JUST NOT GIVING
TO THE POOR



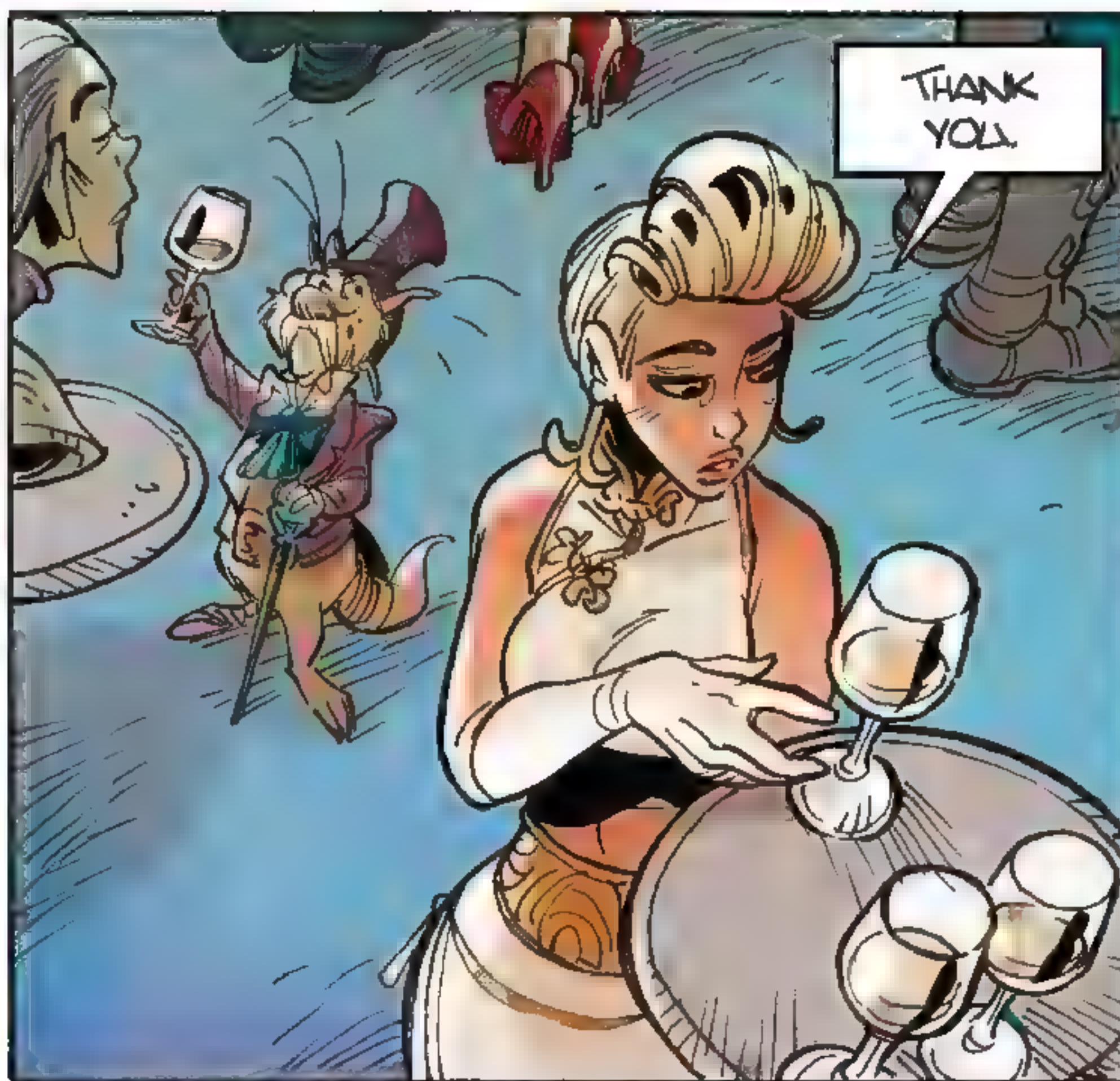
AMAZING LOYS
WILL BE UP
FOR BID...

BOURGOGNE, DEL DUERO, RHÔNE,
BAROLO, POMEROL, RHEINGAU, NAPA,
CHAMPAGNE, AND A CASK OF AN
EXTREMELY OLD VINTAGE COGNAC!

THEY'VE AND
HER BALLET OF
MERMAIDS WILL
ACCOMPANY OUR
WINE-TASTING!



WE ARE STARTING WITH A LEGEND...
CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE, GRENACHE
AND CLAIRETTE, NINE MONTHS
OAK-AGED... WHITE RAYAS 98!



THANK
YOU

BRIGHT
GOLDEN SLIT...



A HINT OF RIPE PEARS,
CANDIED CITRUS...



MHHH...



SOME BUTTERY
BRIOCHE
FLAVORS ON
THE PALATE,
SUPPORTING
NOTES OF
HONEY AND
ORIENTAL
SPICES ON
A CREAMY
FRAME...



A GREAT FINESSE,
A LONG AND WARM
FINISH, A FINE BALANCE.

PRETTY GOOD!



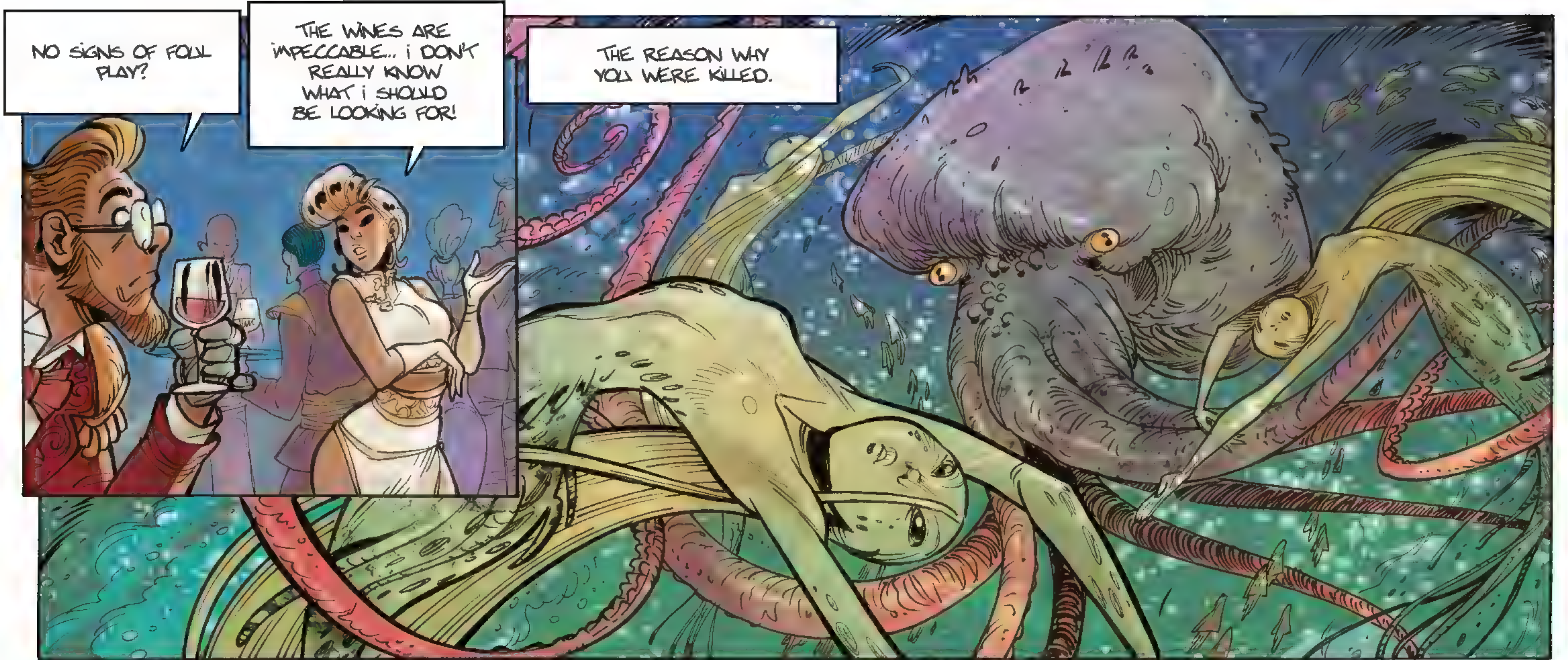
GOOD, IS HER SHOW
OVER?

OH, I THINK
SO, YES.



THEN GO!





NO SIGNS OF FOUL PLAY?

THE WINES ARE IMPECCABLE... I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR!

THE REASON WHY YOU WERE KILLED.



RIGHT, I ALMOST FORGOT. IT'S CRAZY HOW EASILY YOU ADAPT TO ANOTHER BODY, UNBELIEVABLE!



LET'S SAY YOU FOUND A PRETTY GOOD ONE.



WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO BURGUNDY, CÔTE DE NUITS WITH A CLOS DE VOLGEOT FROM THE MEO-CANIZET ESTATE! ADMIRE ITS ELEGANTLY CUT ROBE...



AN AMPLE SCENT OF RED AND BLACK FRUITS ENHANCED BY LEATHER NOTES, I CAN SMELL BLACKBERRY, BLACKCURRANT AND...

AND...



WAIT!



THERE'S A FRAGRANCE THAT DOESN'T BELONG IN THE FRAME! SOMETHING SLIGHTLY DOOZED...



IT MOSTLY SMELLS... LIKE WINE, NO?

LET ME TASTE...

NO.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH

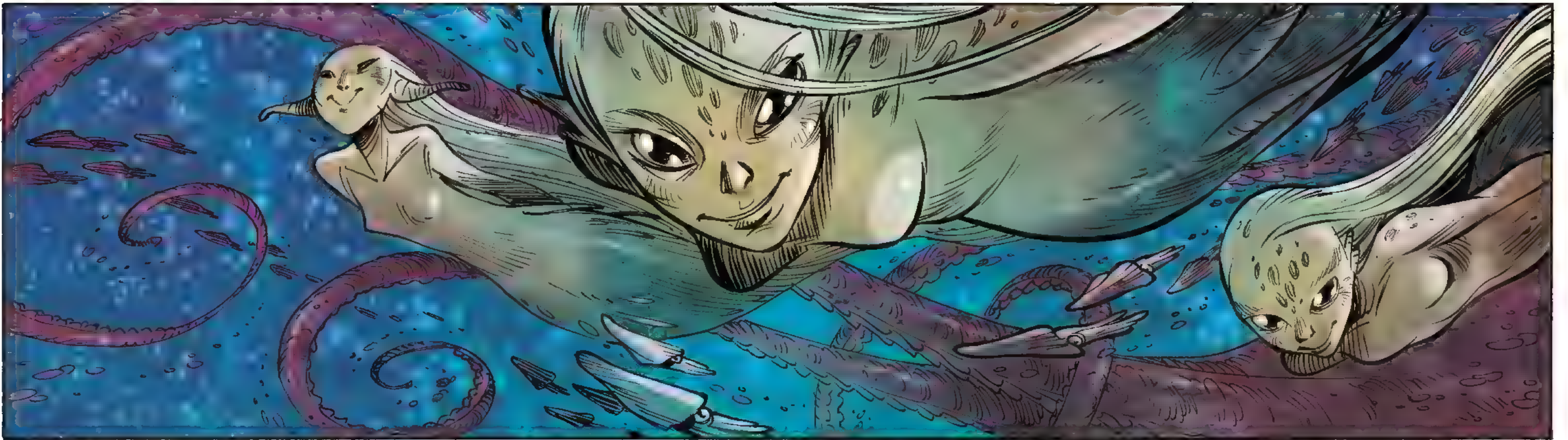
HE'S RIGHT, DON'T SPOIL YOUR PALATE, I'LL TASTE IT MYSELF.



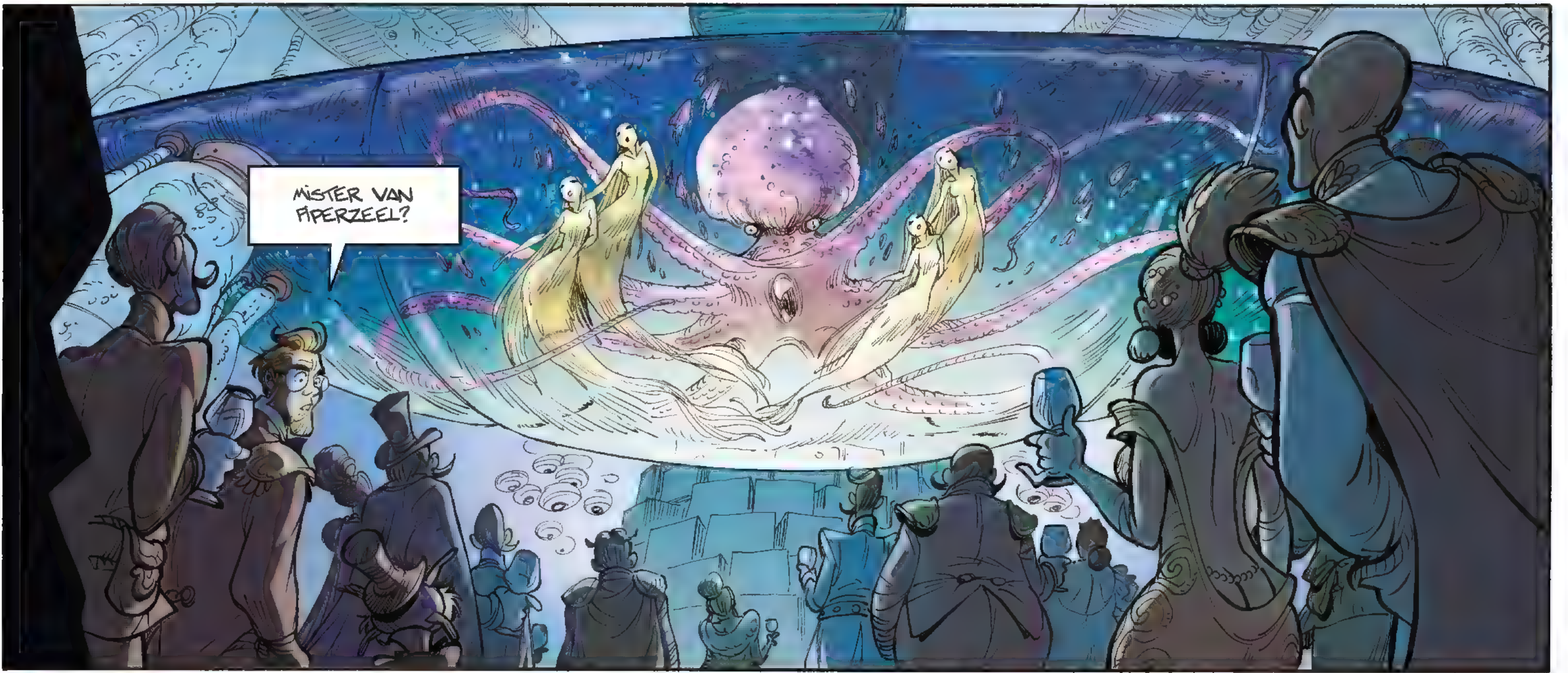
SO...



MMMM...



MISTER VAN FIPERZEEL?

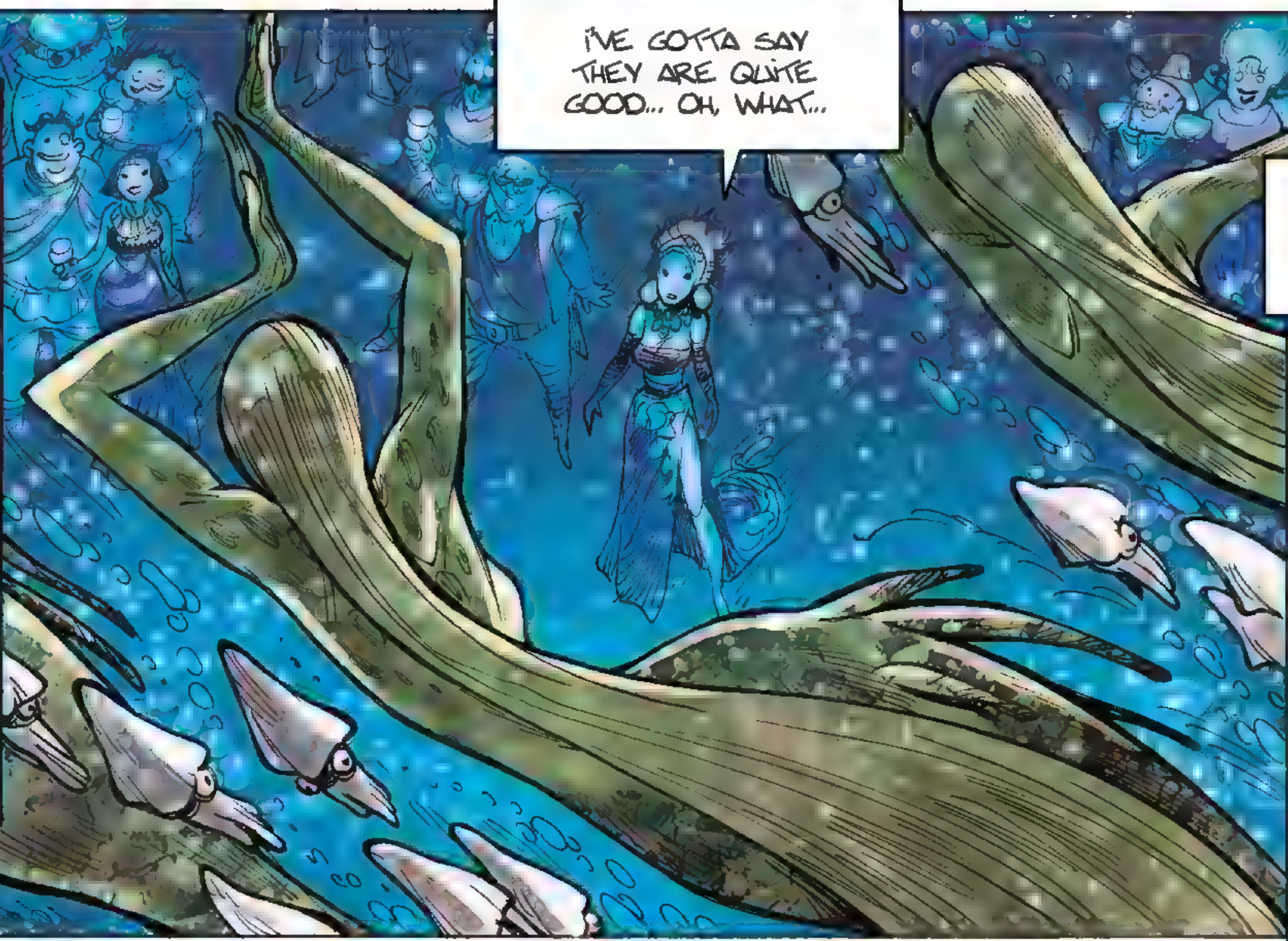


HE'S FROZEN!

WE LOST HIM.



I'VE GOTTA SAY THEY ARE QUITE GOOD... OH, WHAT...



THEY'RE ALL LIKE THIS!



I'M A DANCER
I KNOW WHAT
THEY'RE DOING!
IT'S A HYPNOTIC
DANCE...

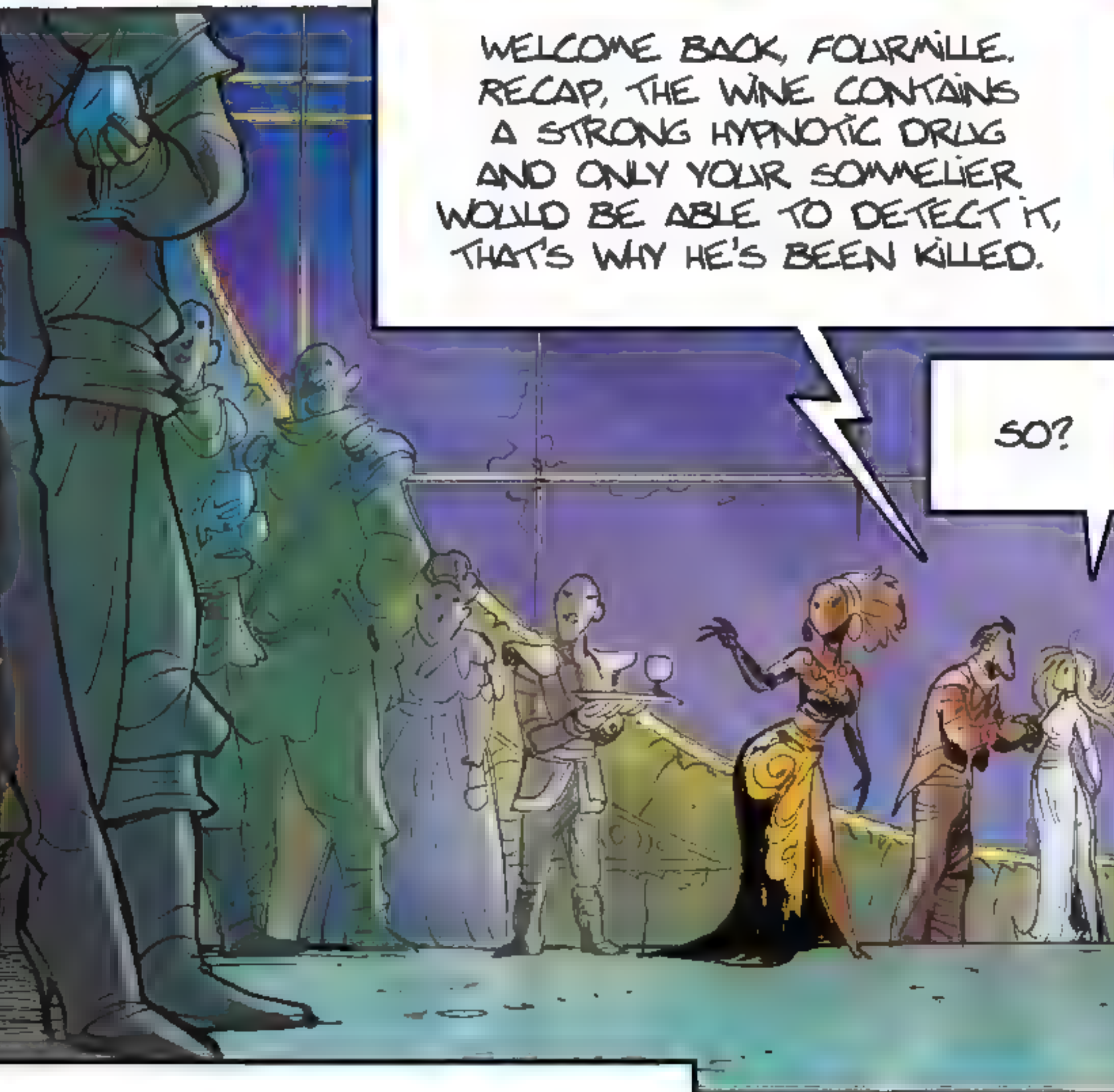
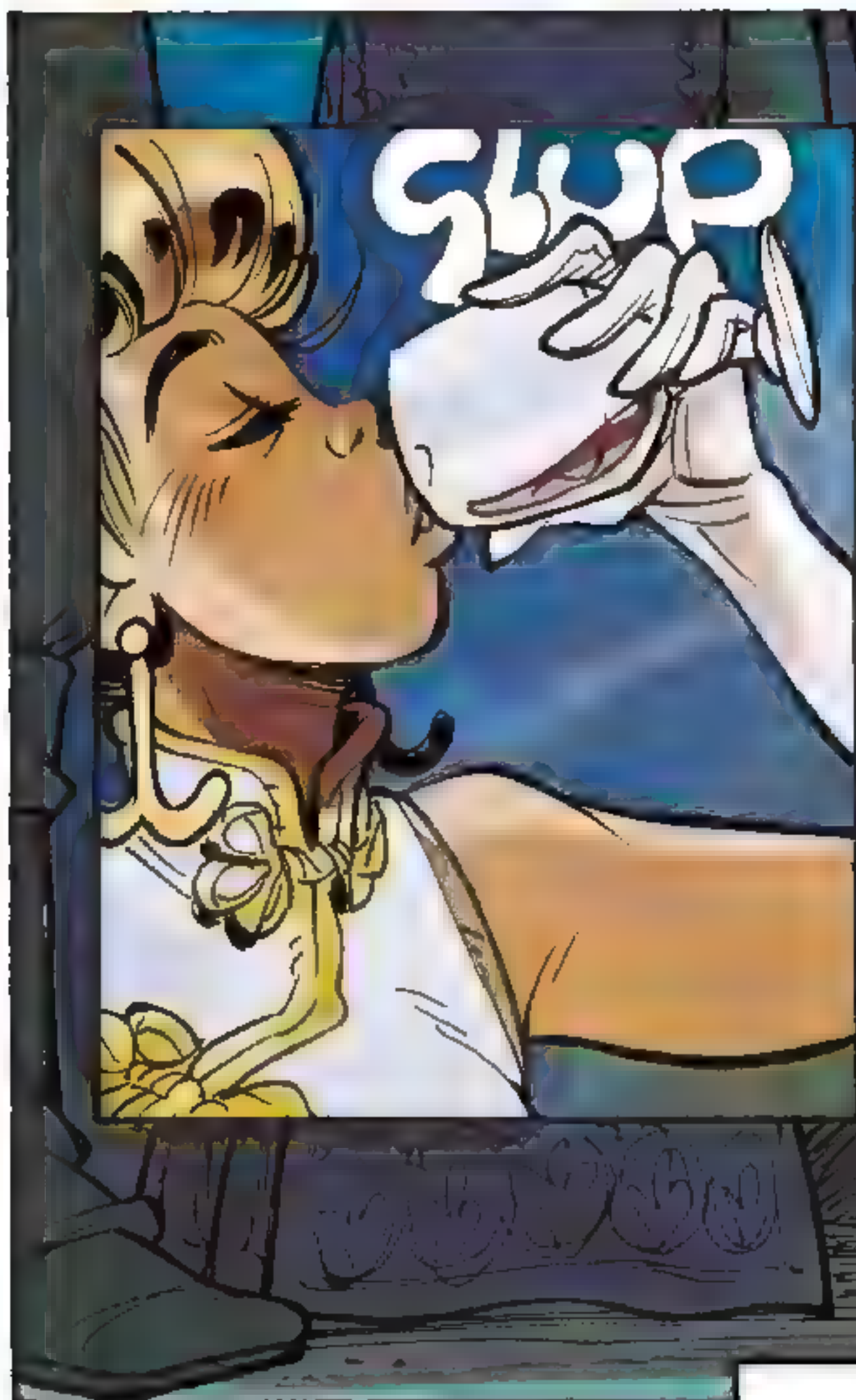
COMBINED WITH
THE SUBSTANCE
INJECTED IN
THE WINE!

THEY OPENED
THE BOTTLES
IN FRONT OF
US, THOUGH!

A THIN NEEDLE CAN
GO THROUGH THE CORK
UNDETECTED.

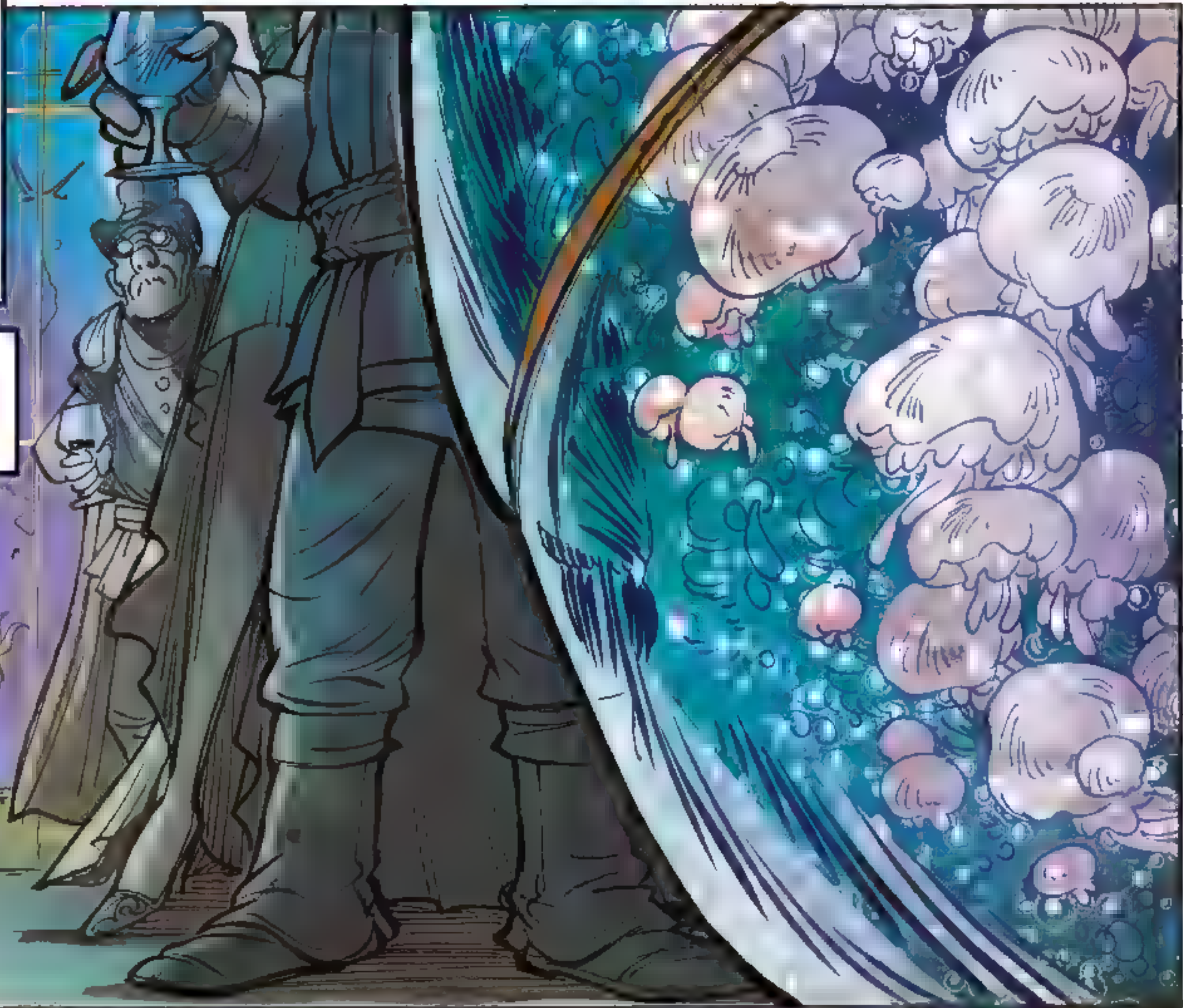
DRINK THIS, I'VE GOTTA
TALK TO FOURVILLE.

AH?



WELCOME BACK, FOURVILLE.
RECAP, THE WINE CONTAINS
A STRONG HYPNOTIC DRUG
AND ONLY YOUR SOMMELIER
WOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT IT,
THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN KILLED.

SO?



AND THEY'RE USING
THE MERMAID DANCE
TO INCREASE
THE SUGGESTION
EFFECT.

WELL, WE KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, THE CASE IS SOLVED.
THE SOMMELIER WON'T COME
BACK, END OF THE PROBLEM.



SO?

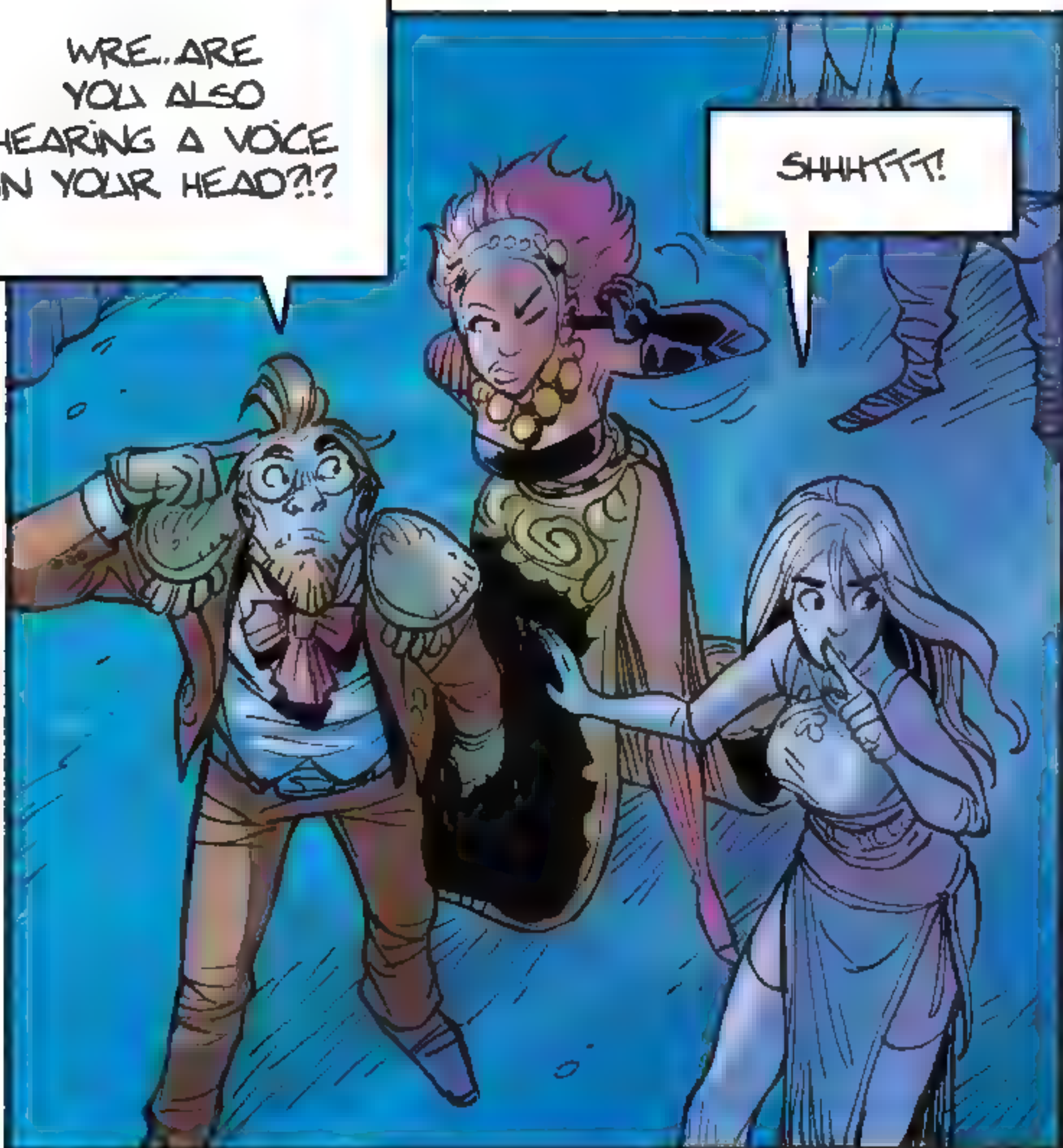


MWAHAHAHA!

HOW NICE TO
SEE YOU ALL SO
RECEPTIVE AND
ATTENTIVE!



WRE.. ARE YOU ALSO HEARING A VOICE IN YOUR HEAD??



SHHHH!!

ORPHEA TAO SET THE WHOLE THING UP!



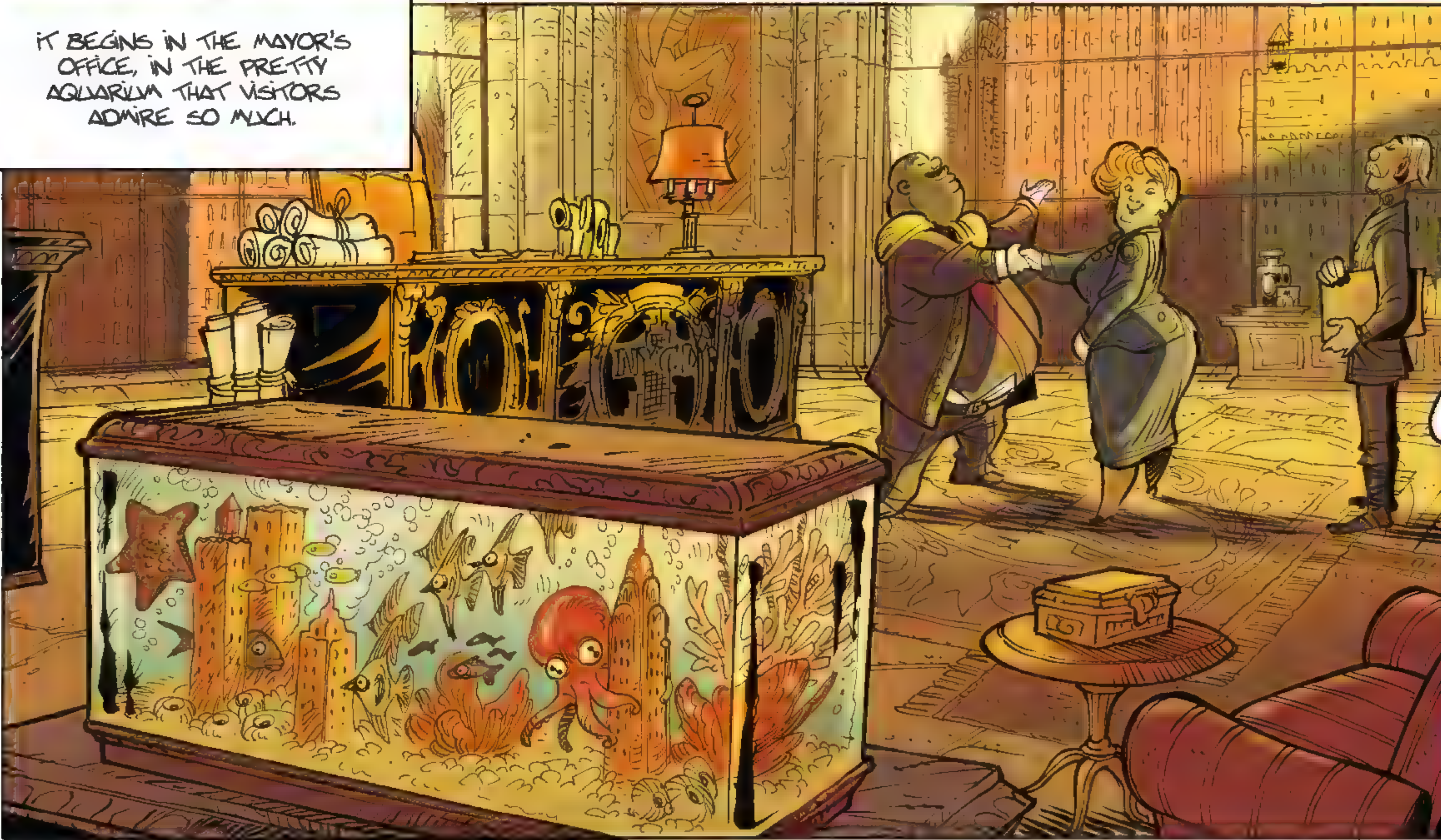
NO, SHE SEEMS LOST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

KEEP QUIET AND ACT LOST, OR WE'LL GET NOTICED!

STILL WHERE IS THE TELEPATH?



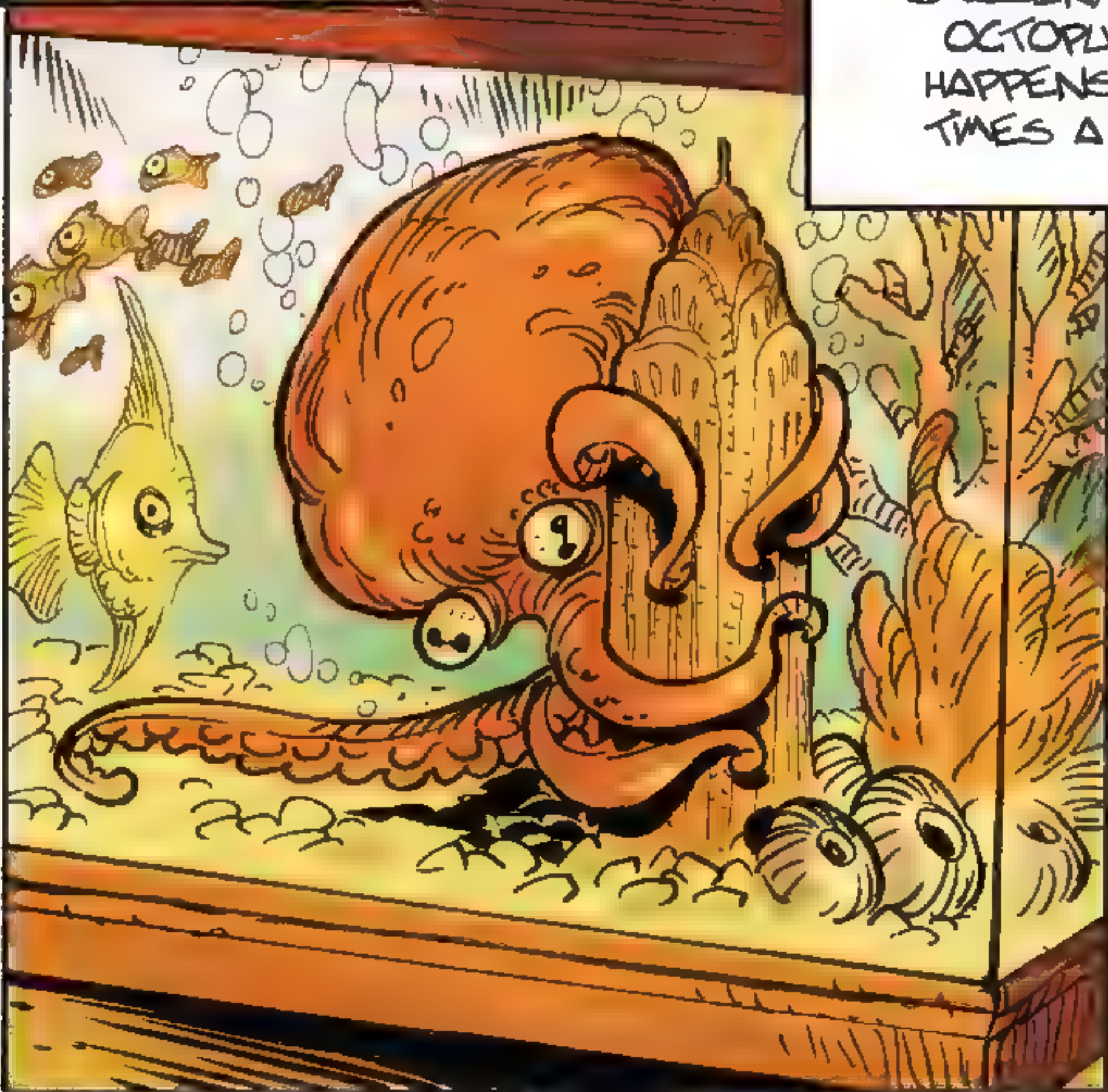
IT BEGINS IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, IN THE PRETTY AQUARIUM THAT VISITORS ADMIRE SO MUCH.



DO YOU REMEMBER OCTO, MISTER MAYOR? OF COURSE NOT...



BECAUSE HE GREW UP FAST...



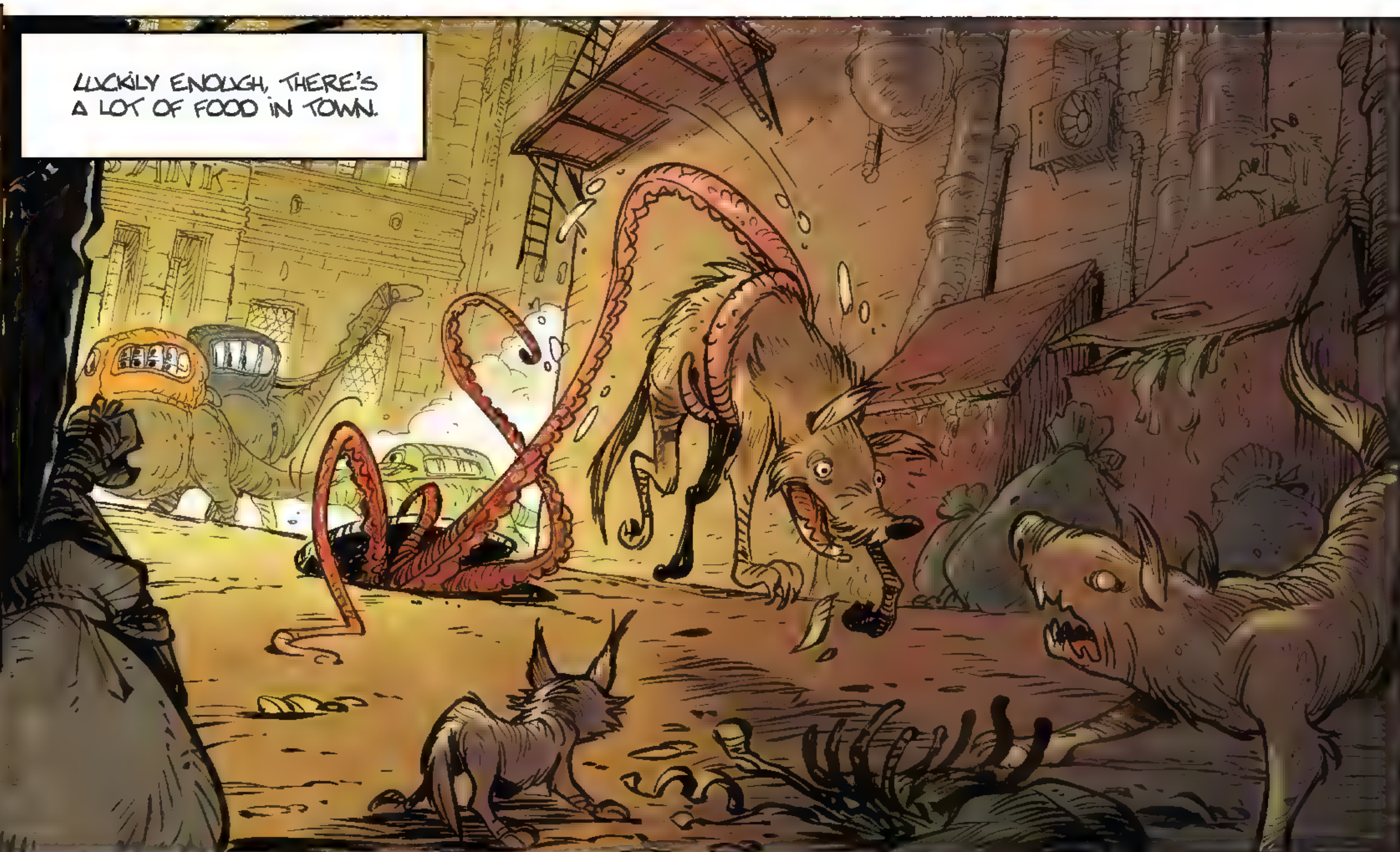
AND HE WAS REPLACED BY A SMALLER CUTER OCTOPUS AS HAPPENS MANY TIMES A YEAR.



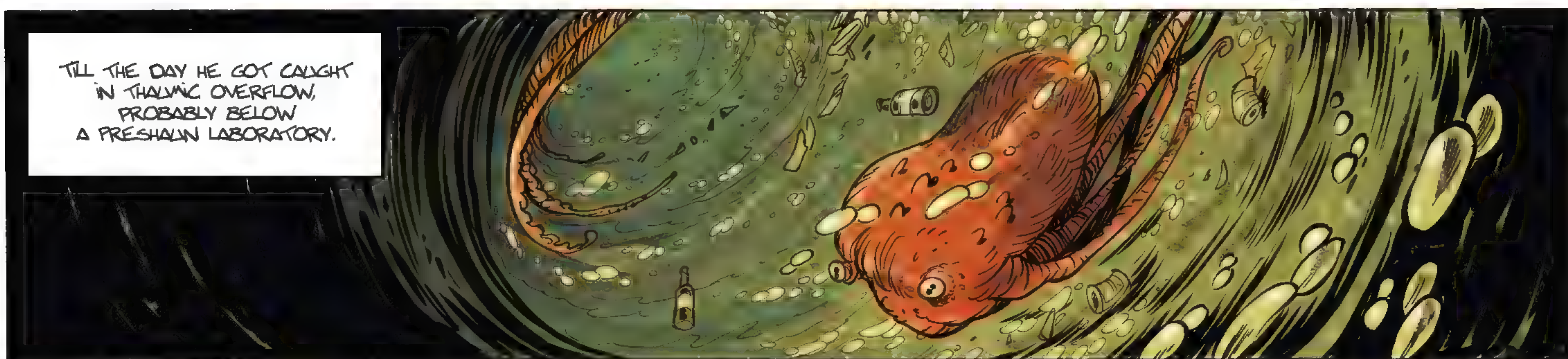
LIKE ALL CLUTTER IN NEW YORK HE WAS THROWN IN THE SEWER.



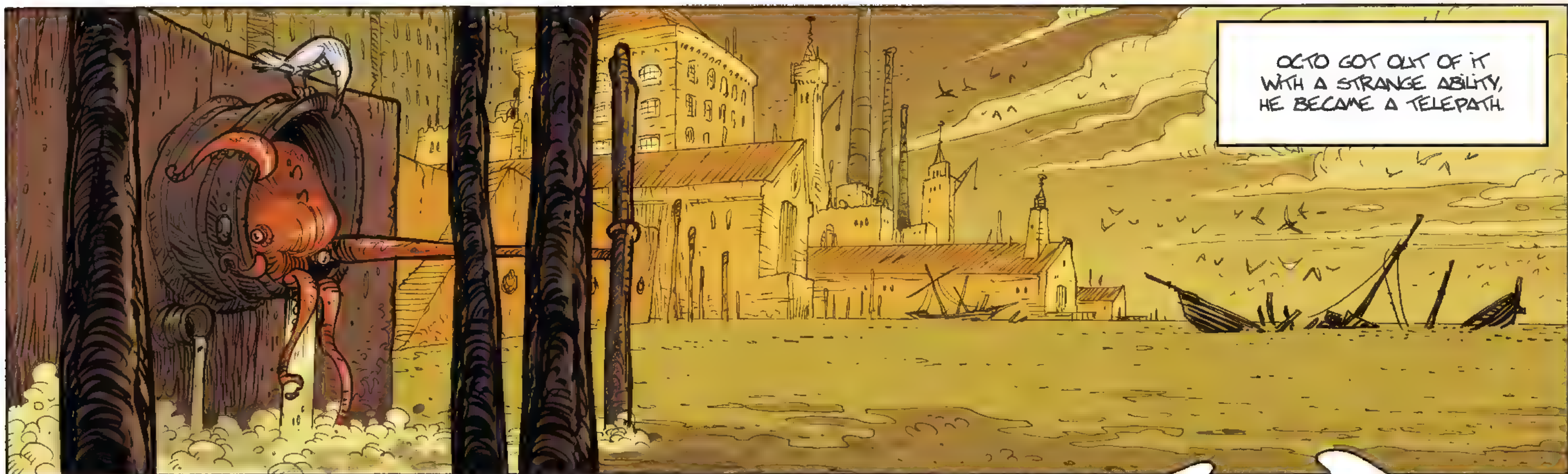
HE LEARNED HOW TO SURVIVE...



LUCKILY ENOUGH, THERE'S A LOT OF FOOD IN TOWN.



TILL THE DAY HE GOT CAUGHT IN THALMIC OVERFLOW, PROBABLY BELOW A FRESHAIN LABORATORY.



OCTO GOT OUT OF IT WITH A STRANGE ABILITY, HE BECAME A TELEPATH.



THERE! IT'S THE GIANT OCTOPUS!

THANKS YURI, WE GOT IT.

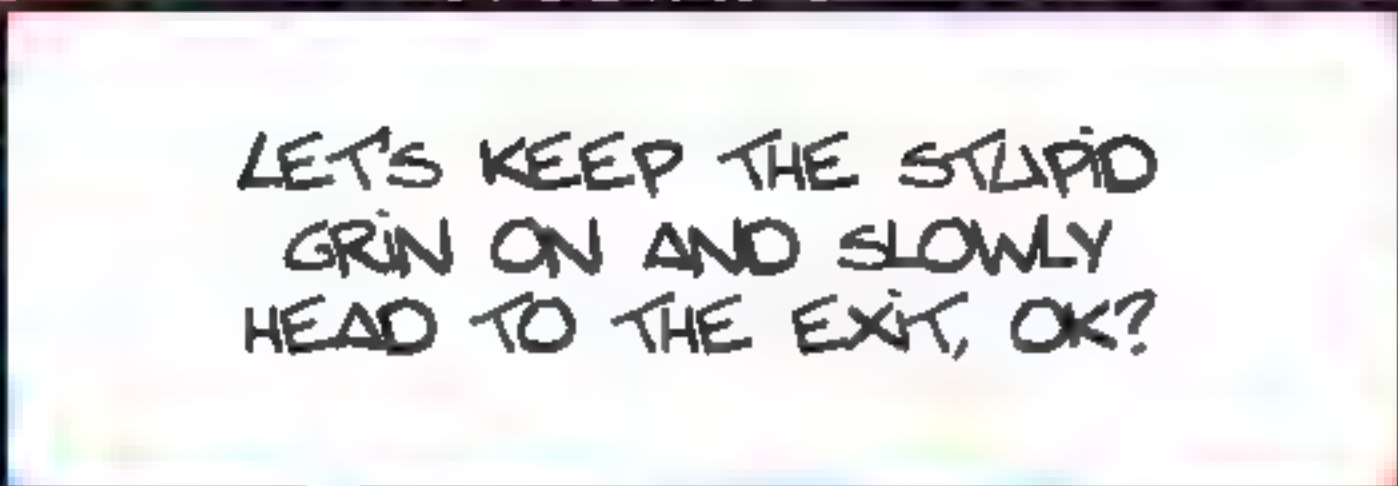
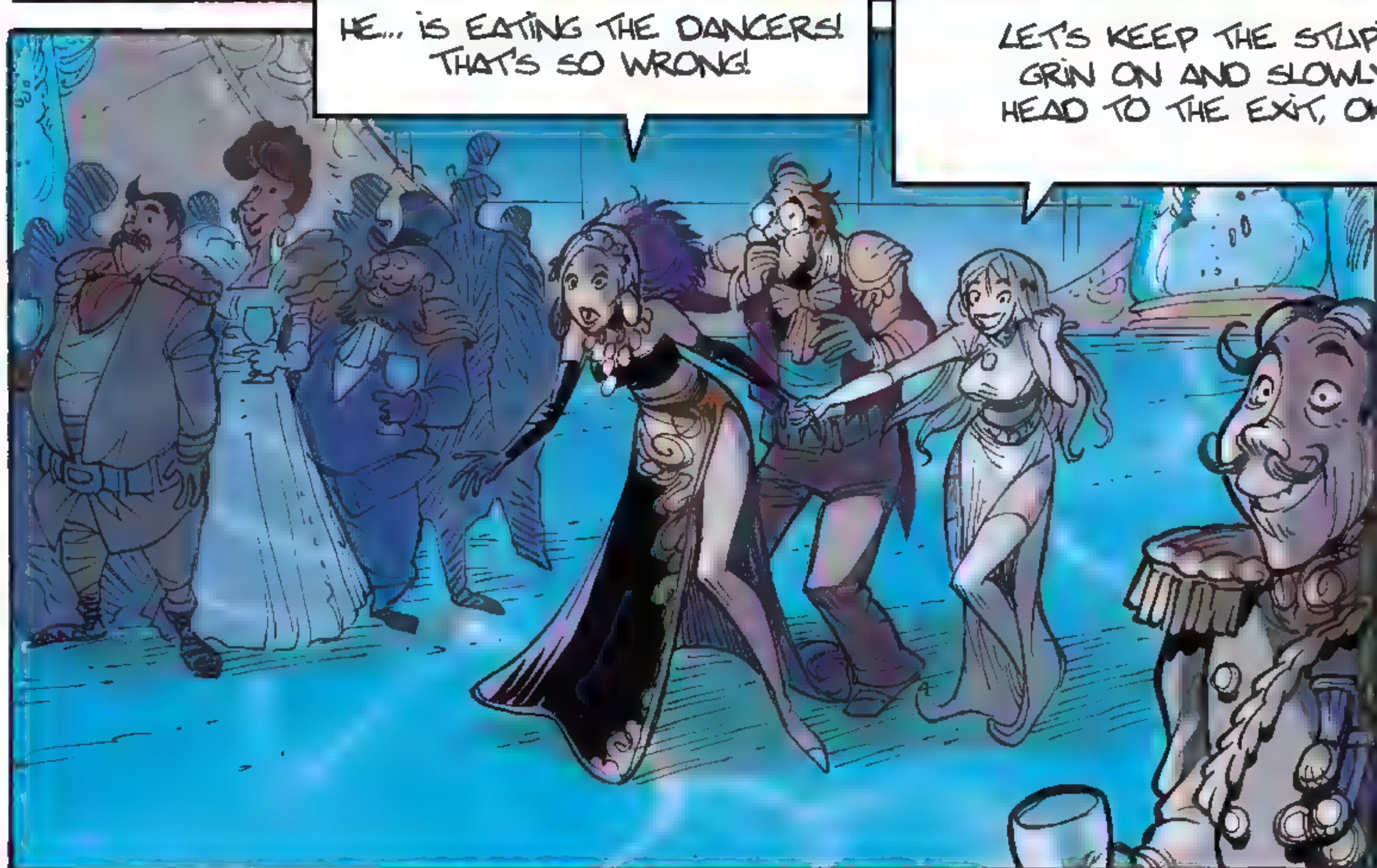
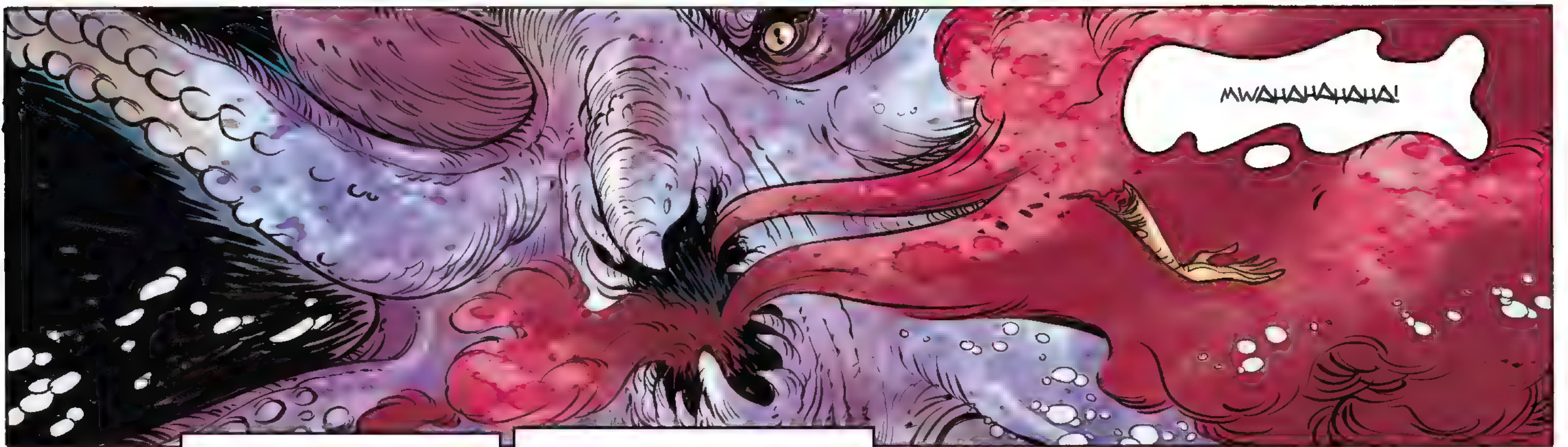
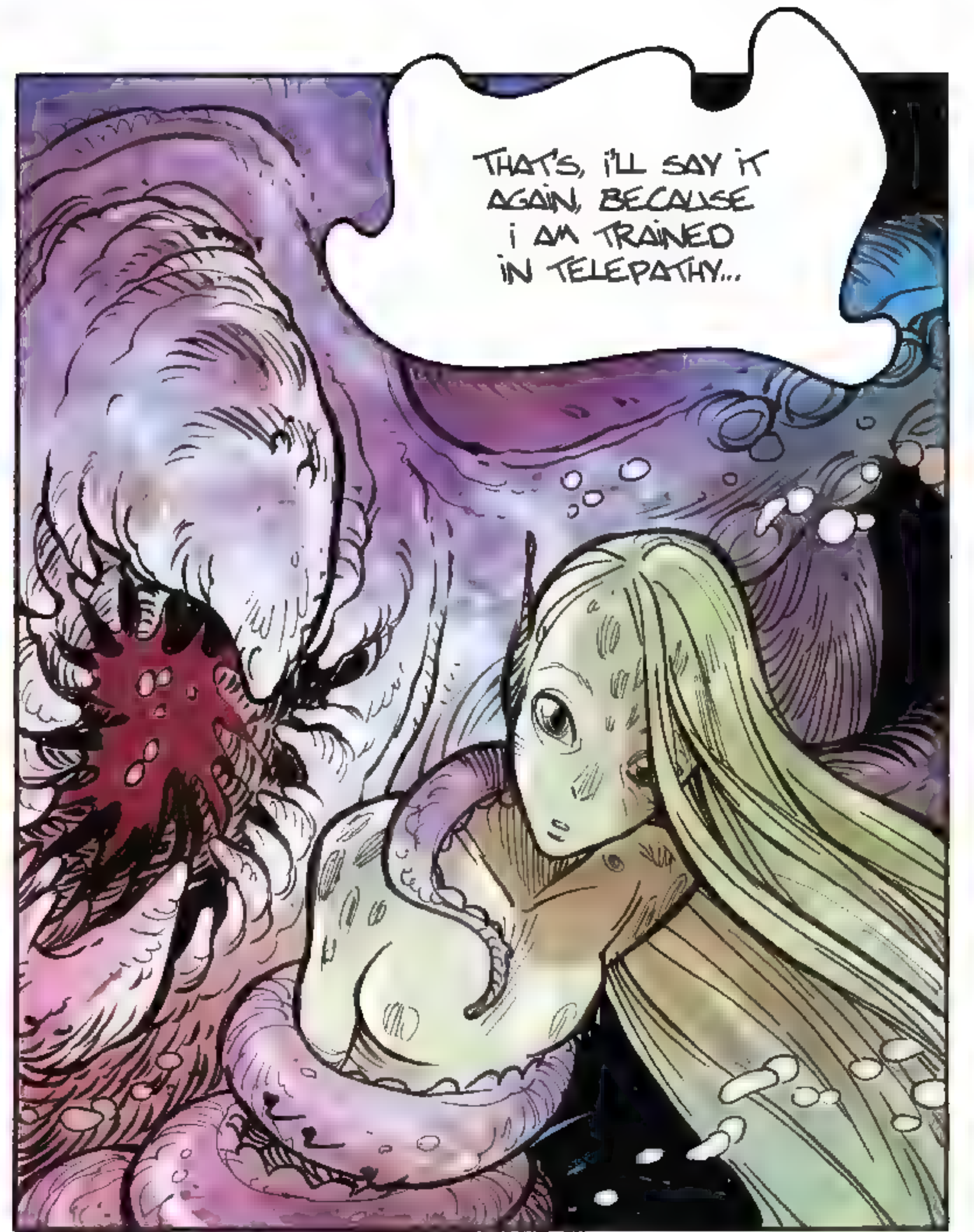
STOP MOVING OR WE'LL GET NOTICED!

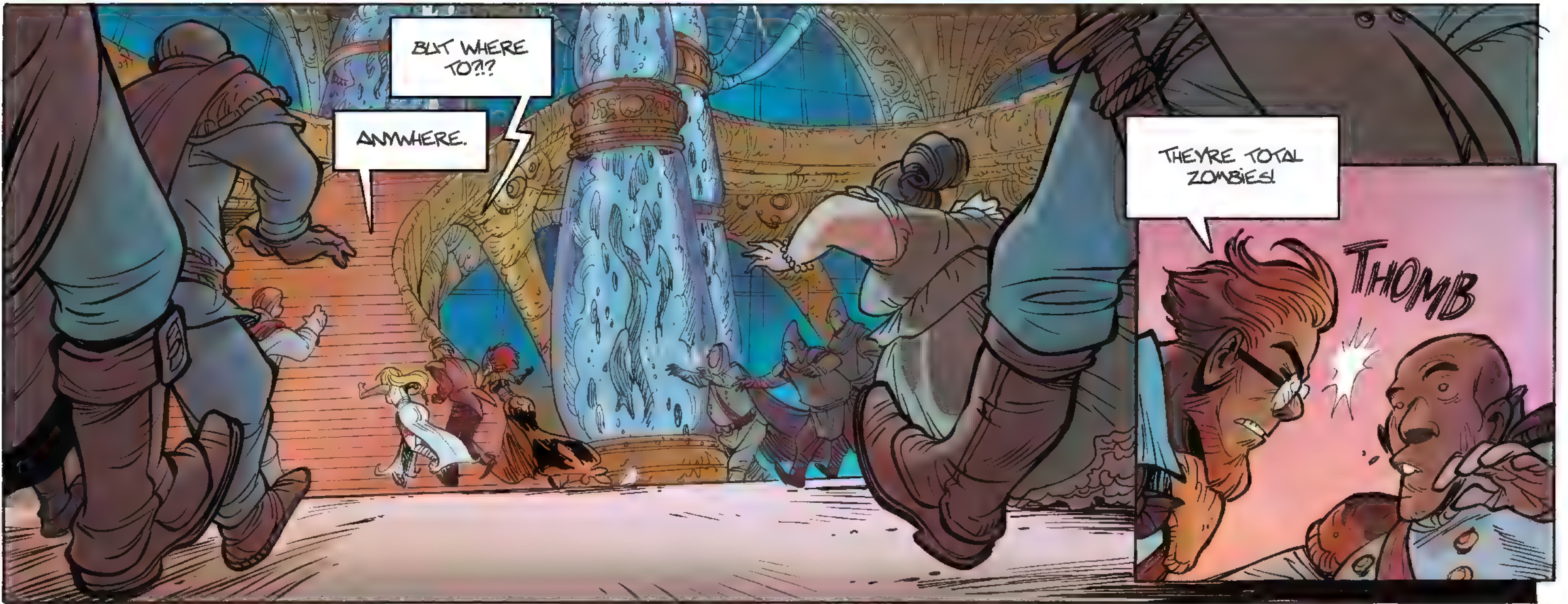
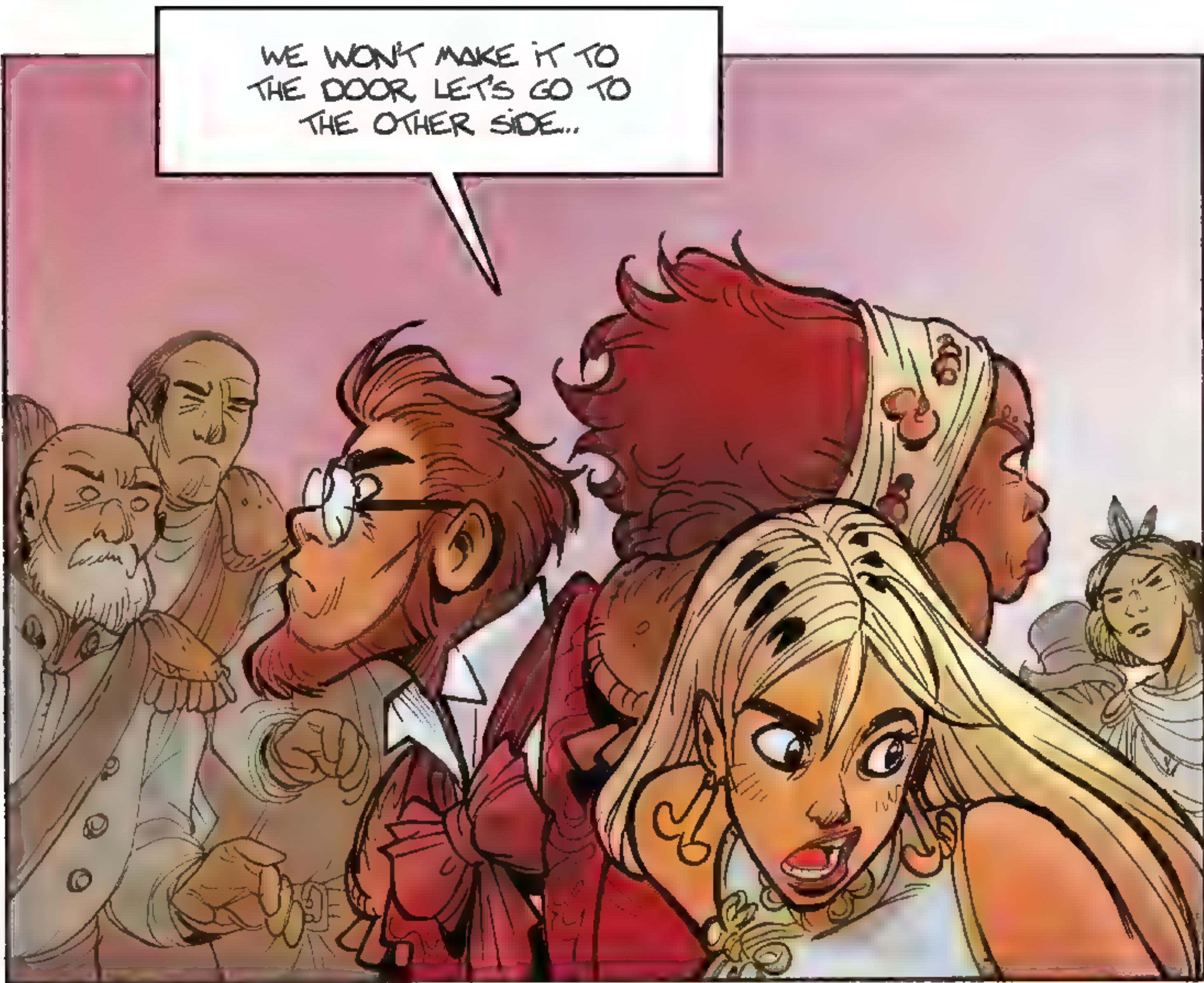


FROM THAT MOMENT ON, I PUT MY SKILLS TO GOOD USE...



I BECAME CLOSE TO ORPHEA TAO, PROMPTED HER TO BUILD THIS SEA COMPLEX, AND TO INVITE YOU ALL HERE, MASTERS OF NEW YORK.









OF COURSE, ANOTHER ONE WHO THINKS A MURDER'S GONNA SOLVE EVERYTHING!

THEY'RE ALL THE SAME!

BUT A MURDER IS SOMETHING VERY USEFUL!



I GOTTA CLIMB UP... THE STAIRS ARE BLOCKED...

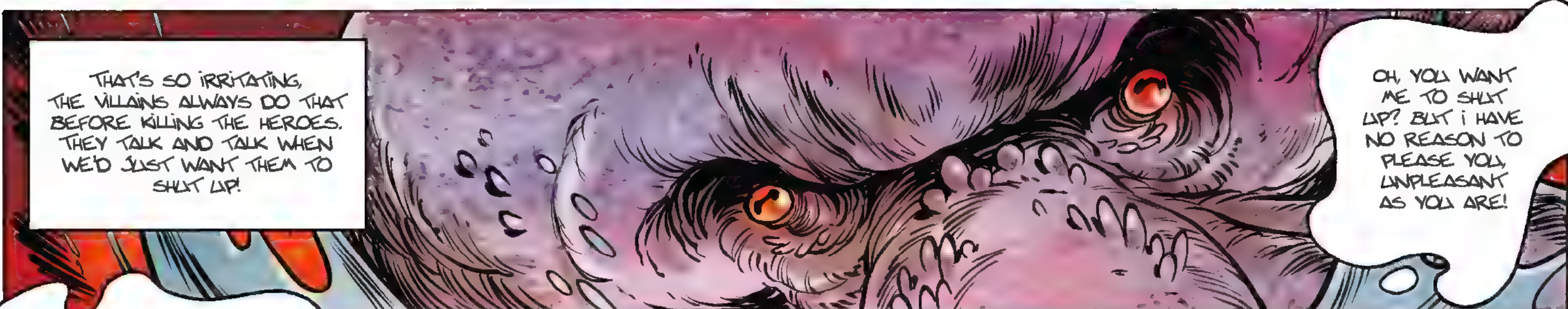


THE FLE OF CRATES!

HOW USEFUL? YOU KILLED ALEXANDRE THE SOMMELIER, BUT WE'RE HERE ANYWAY!



OH, NO! MERCY, FOURMILLE! DON'T TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS MURDER OR HE'LL INSIST ON GIVING US ALL THE DETAILS! ...

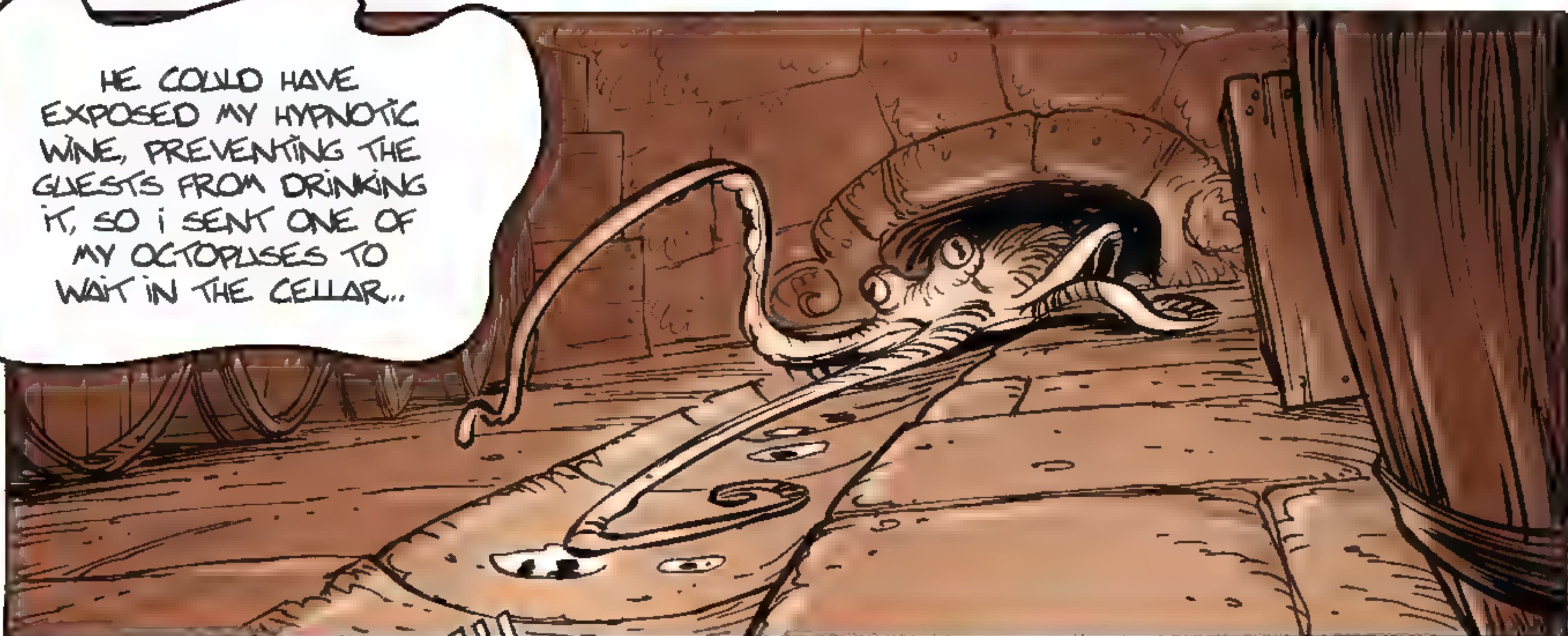


THAT'S SO IRRITATING, THE VILLAINS ALWAYS DO THAT BEFORE KILLING THE HEROES. THEY TALK AND TALK WHEN WE'D JUST WANT THEM TO SHUT UP!

OH, YOU WANT ME TO SHUT UP? BUT I HAVE NO REASON TO PLEASE YOU, UNPLEASANT AS YOU ARE!



I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS CITY, SO I WAS AWARE WHEN VAN FIPERZEEL CONTACTED ALEXANDRE.

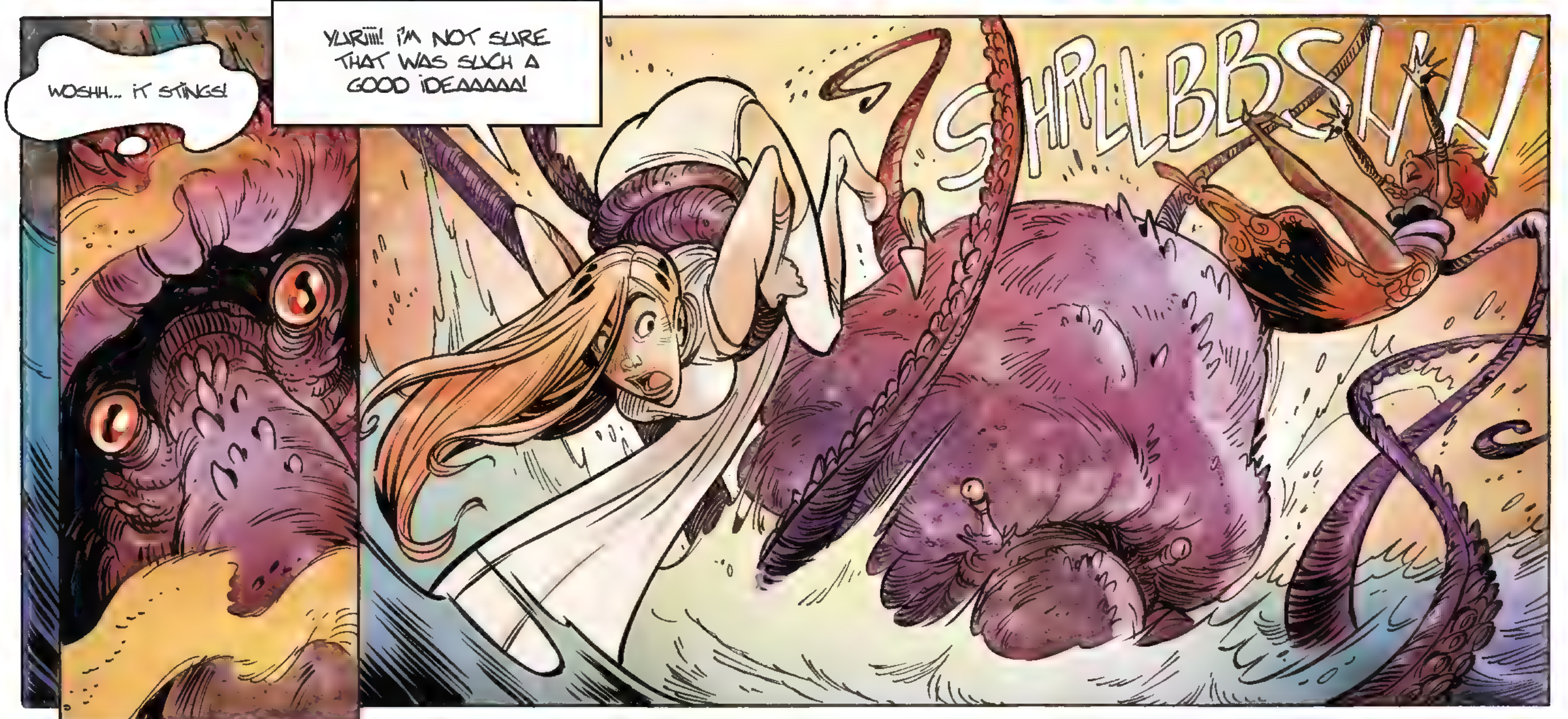
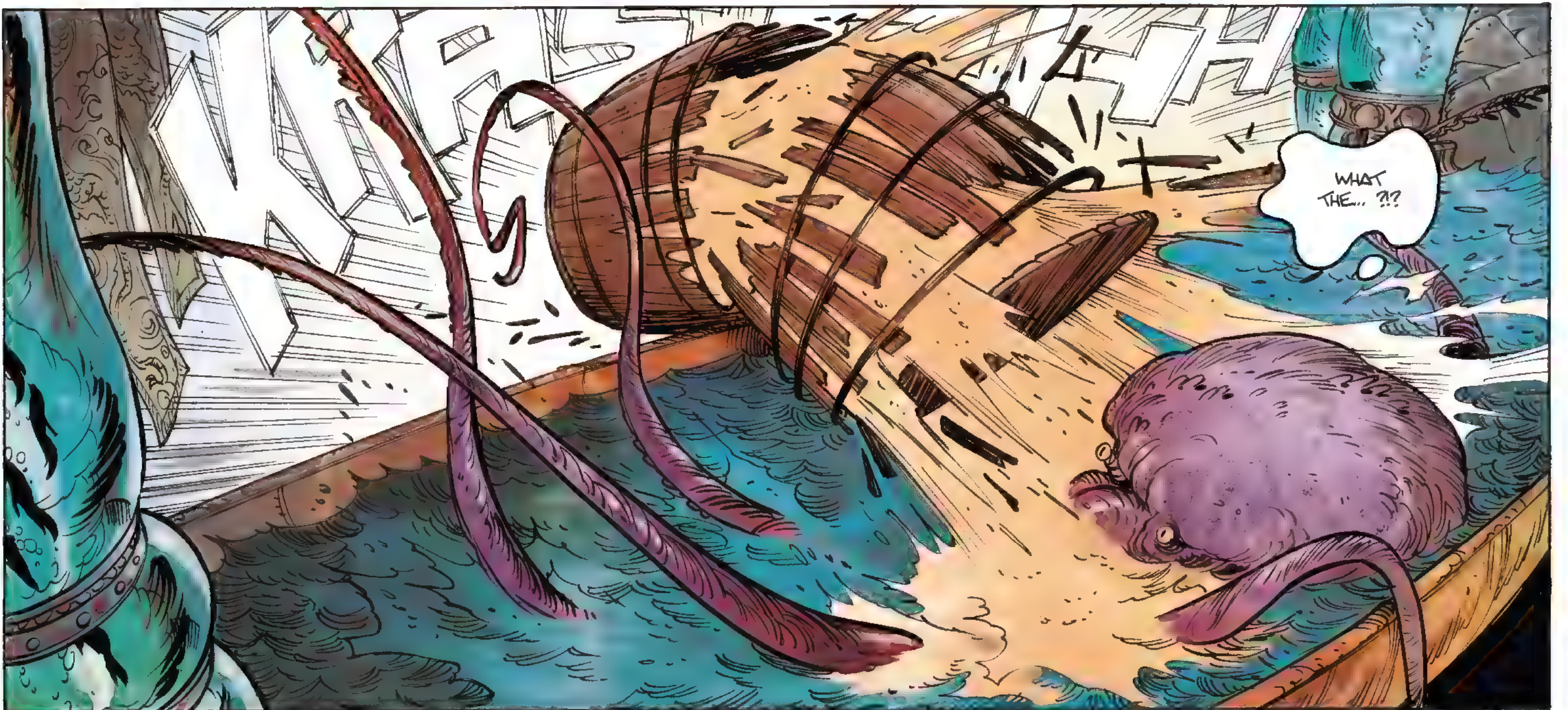


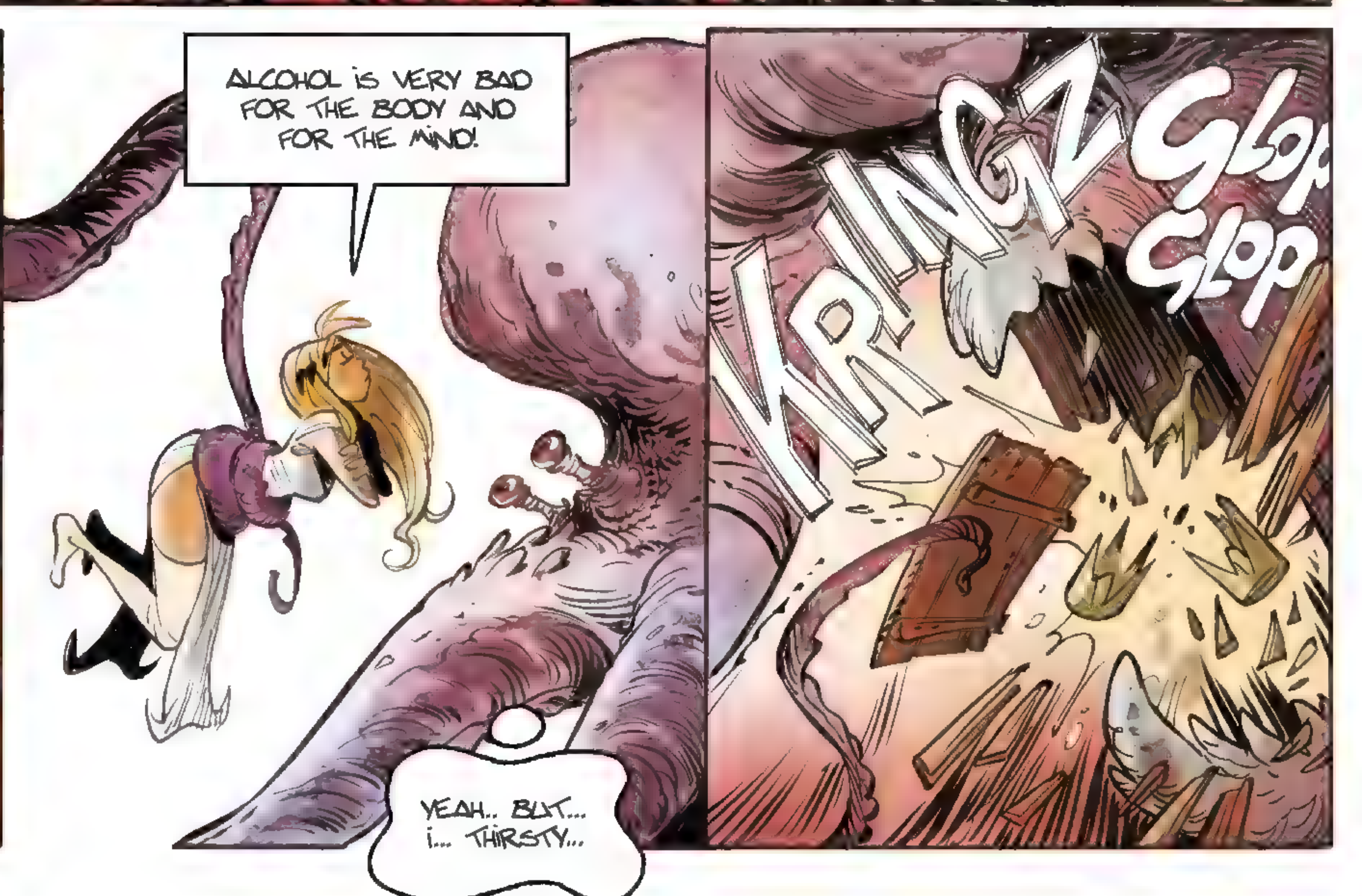
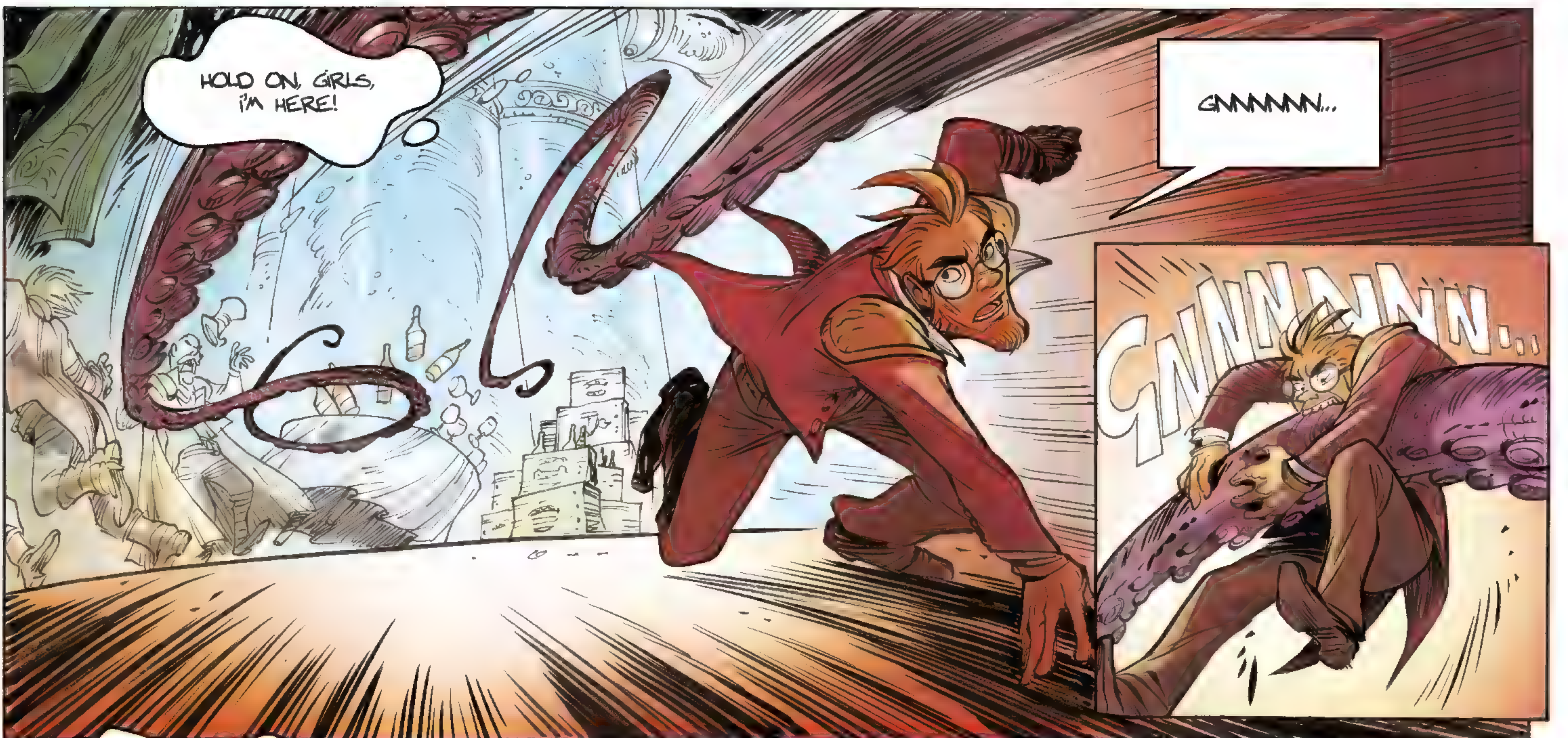
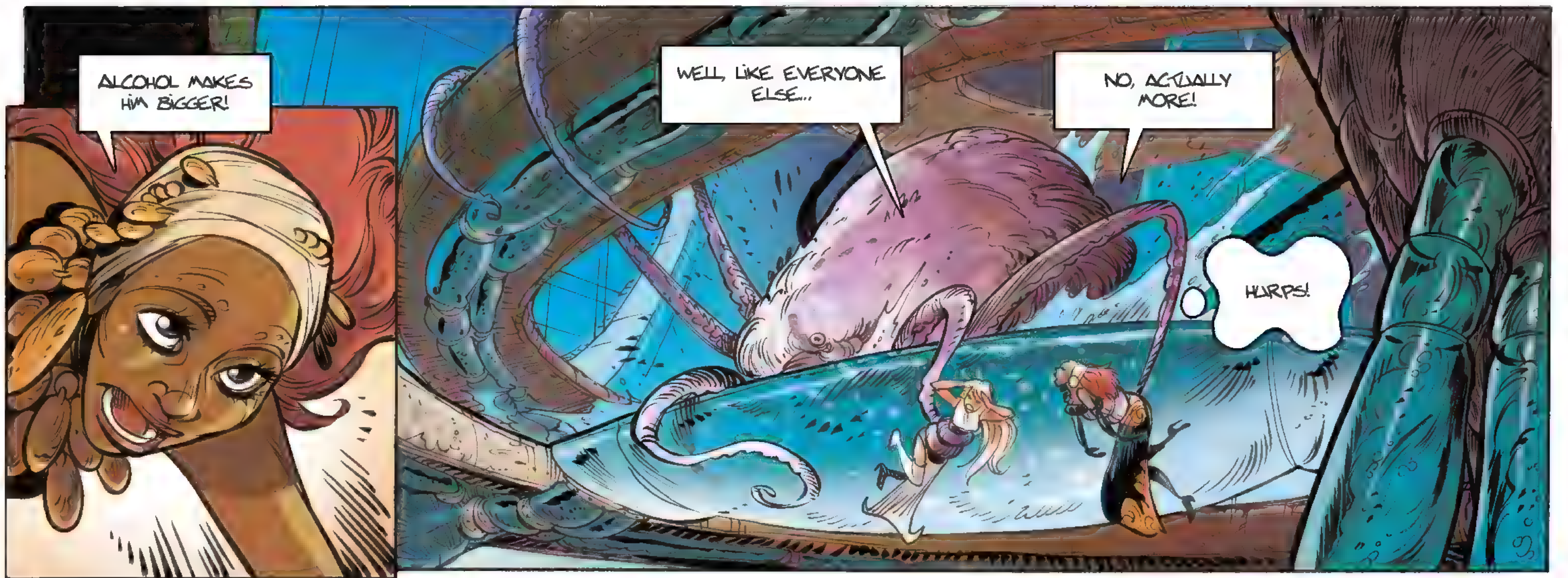
HE COULD HAVE EXPOSED MY HYPNOTIC WINE, PREVENTING THE GUESTS FROM DRINKING IT, SO I SENT ONE OF MY OCTOPUSES TO WAIT IN THE CELLAR...

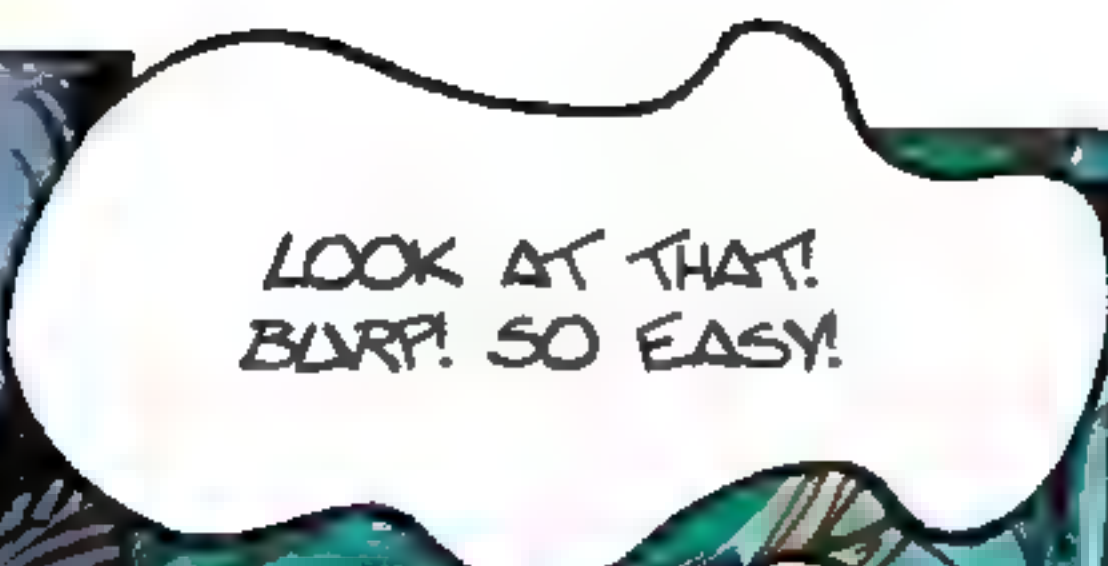


THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO.

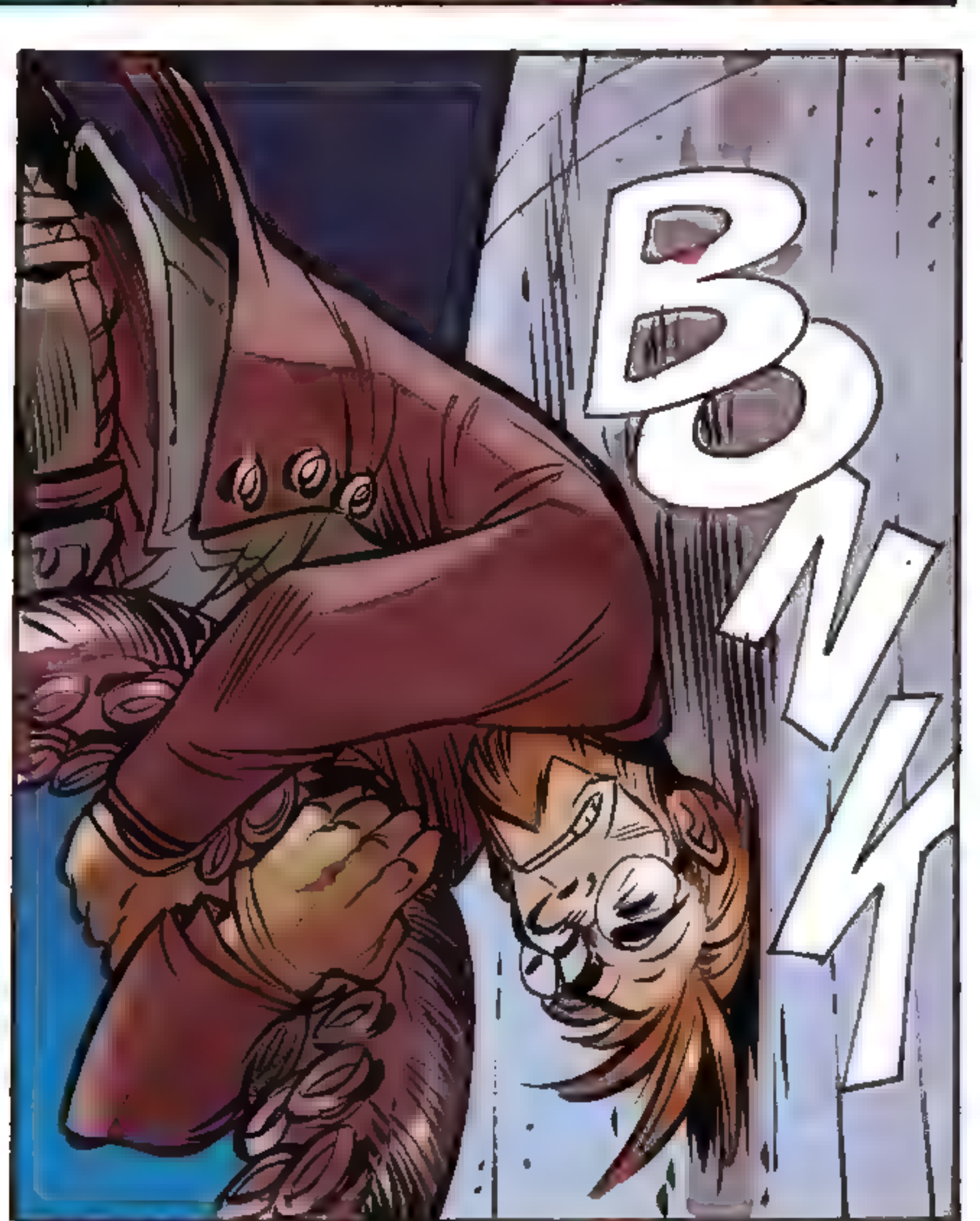
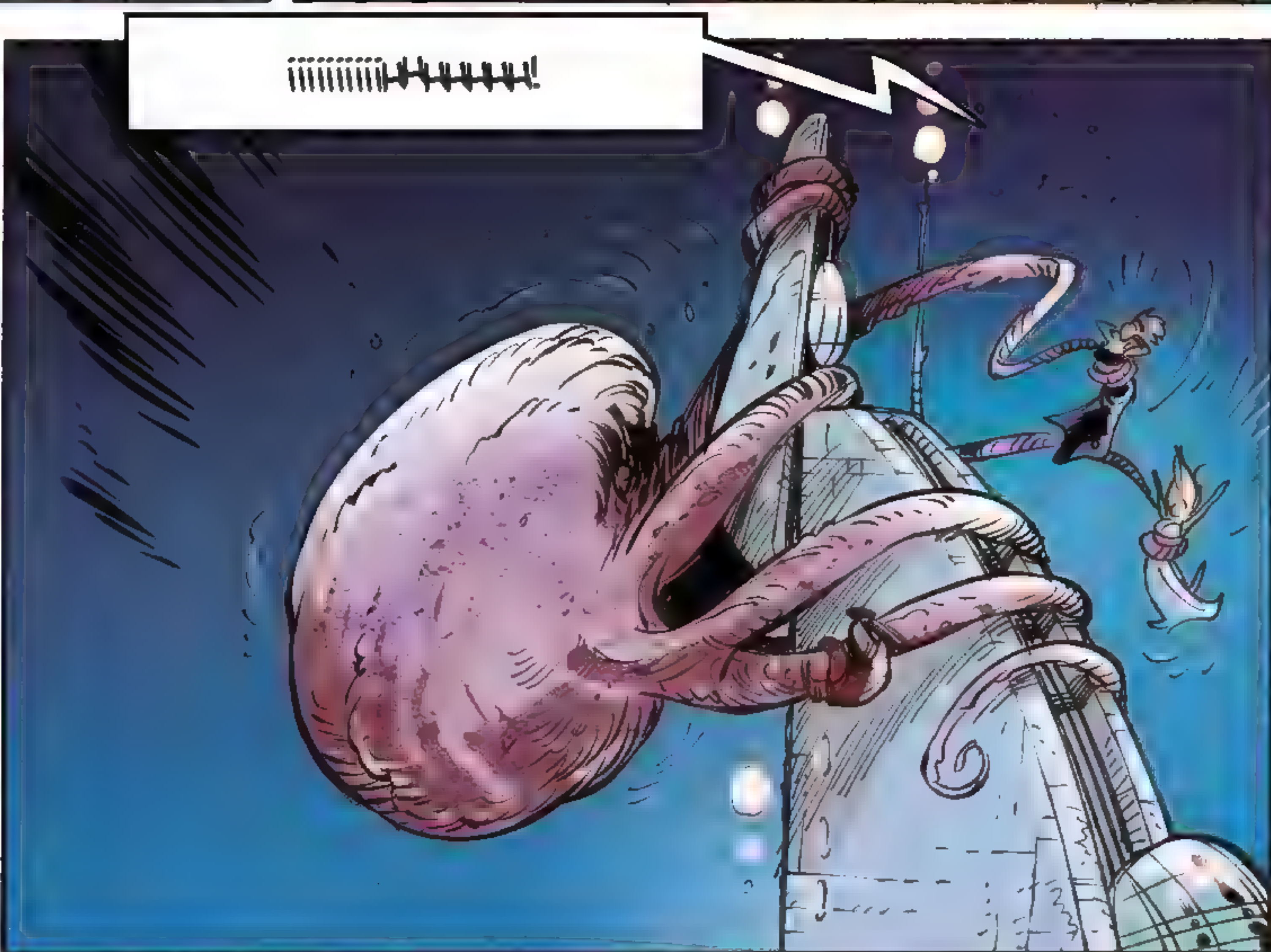
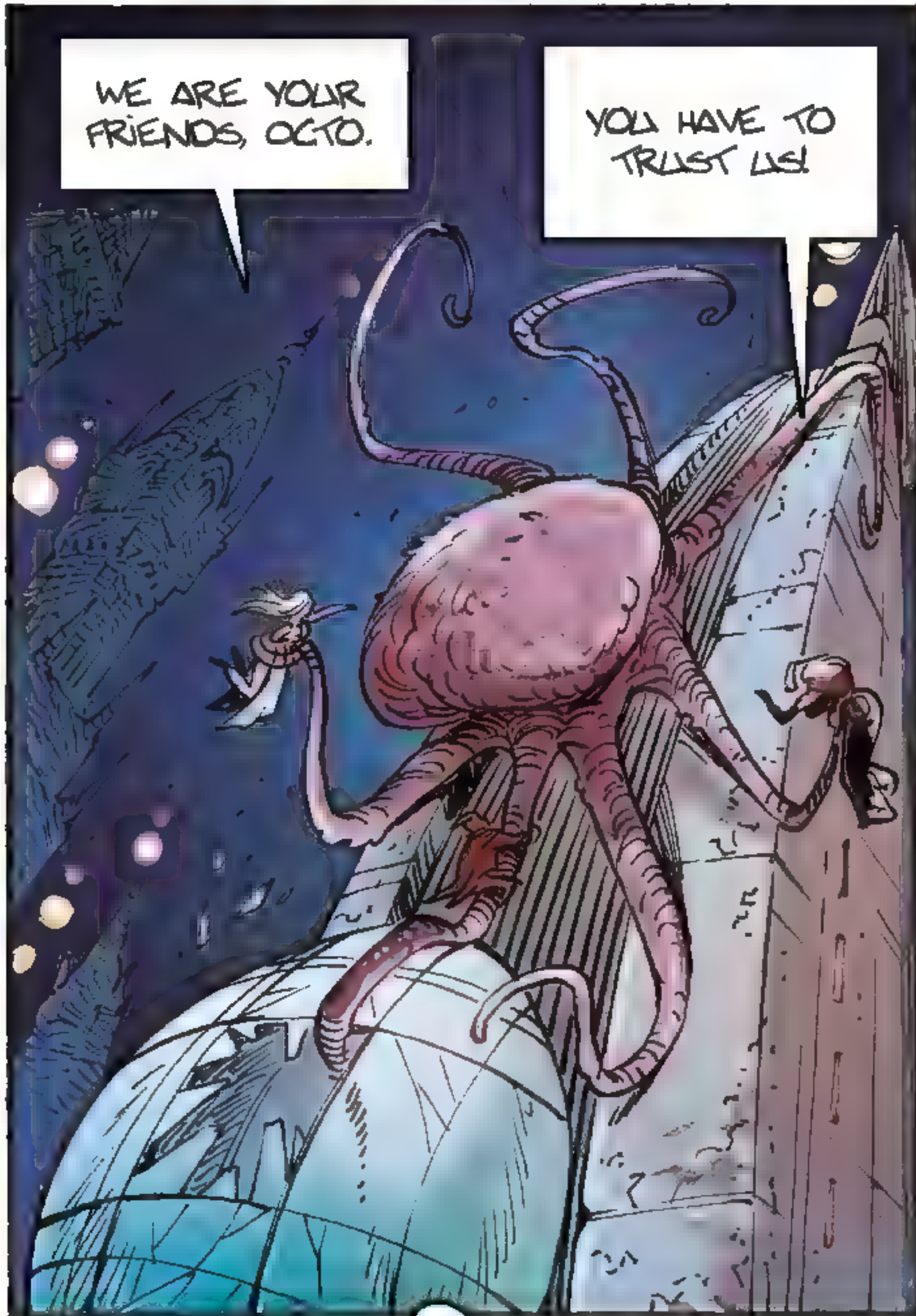
RGHHH

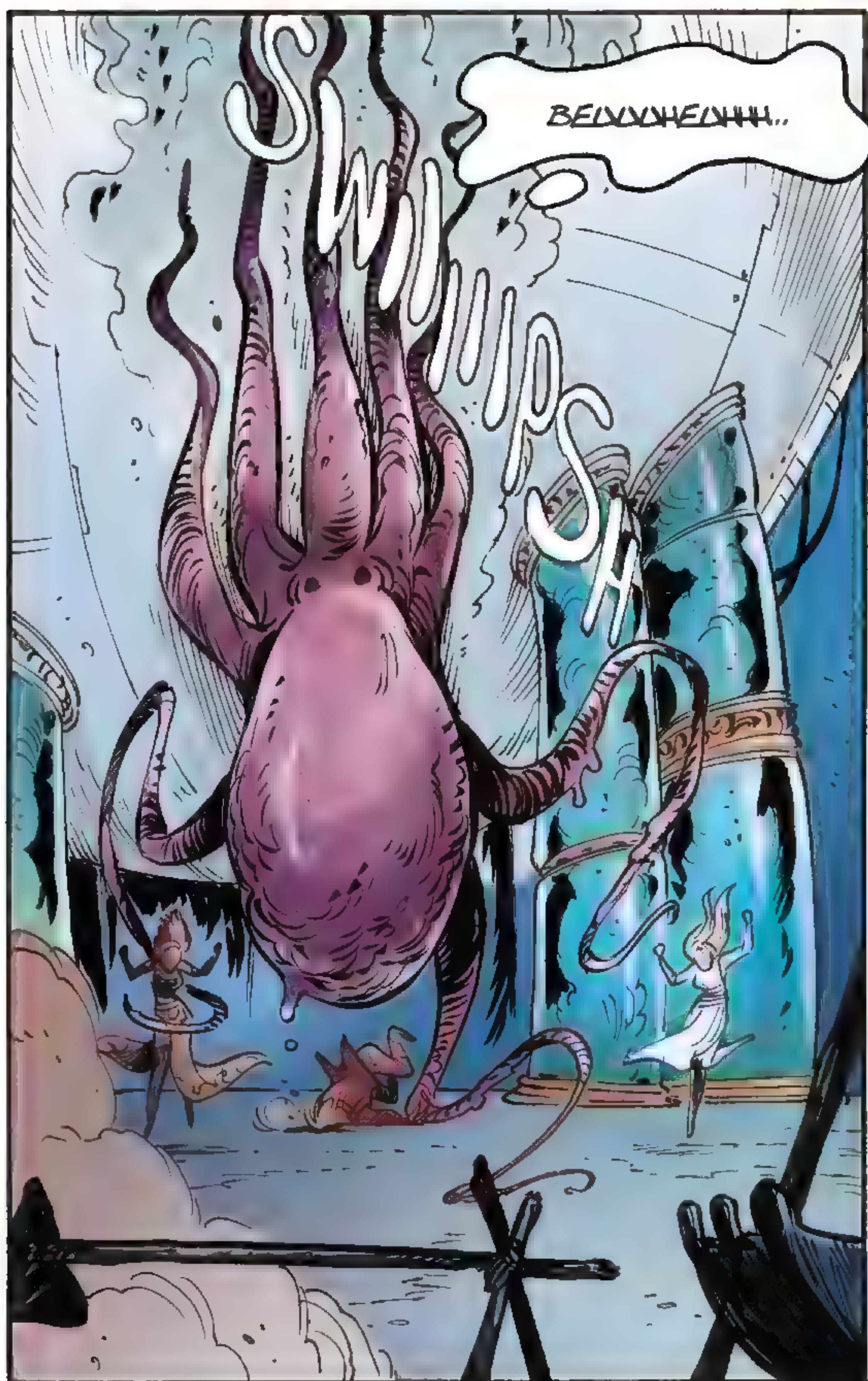
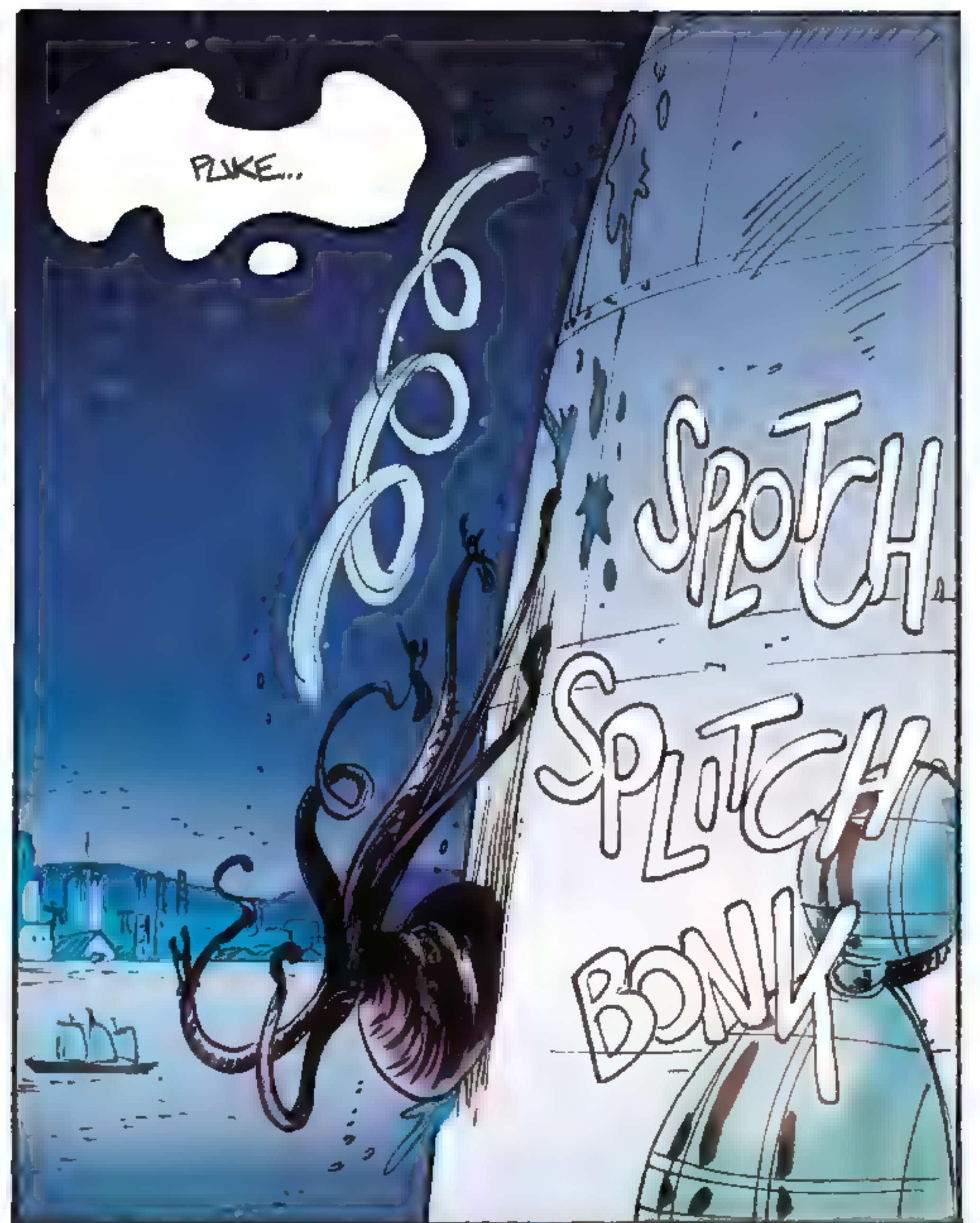
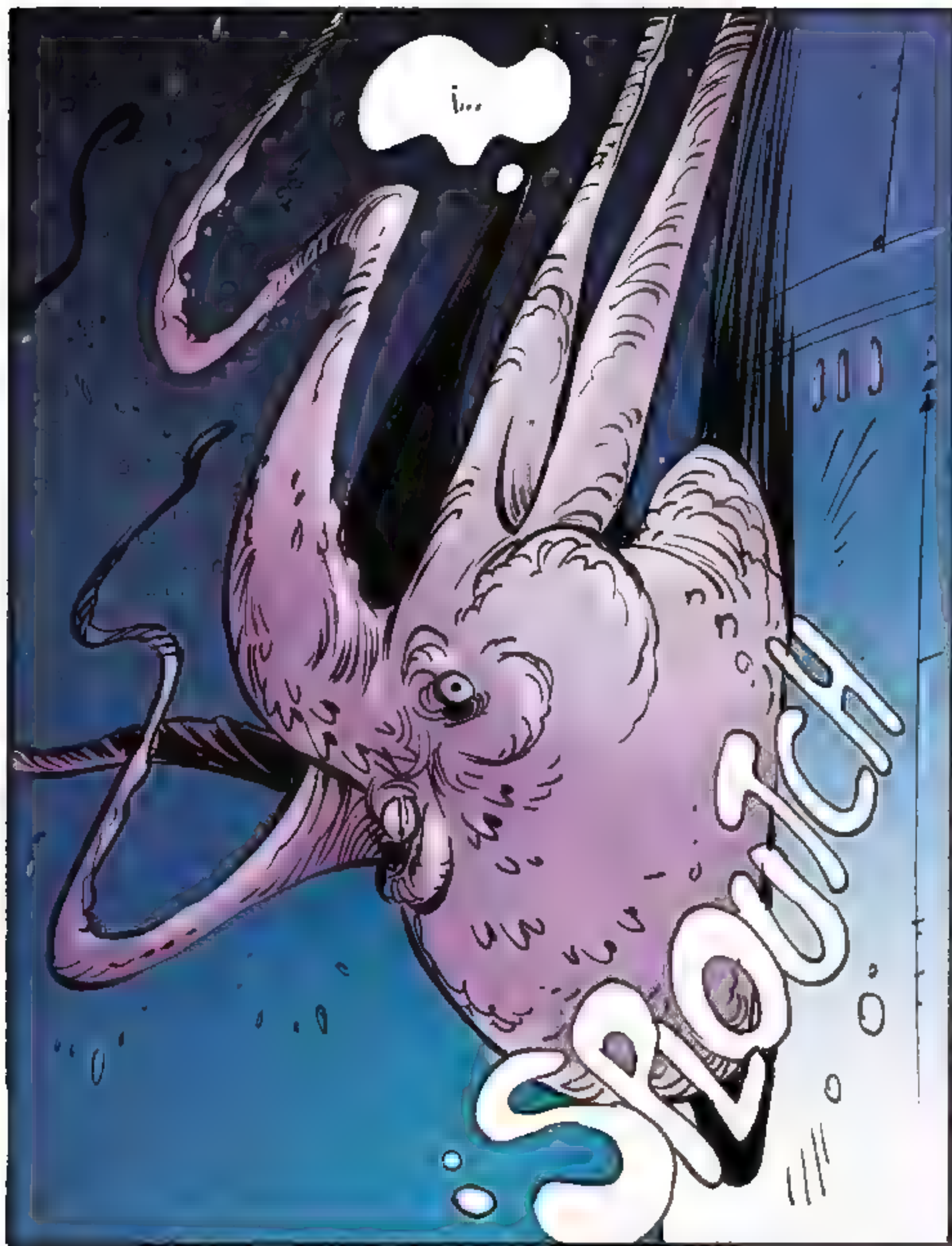


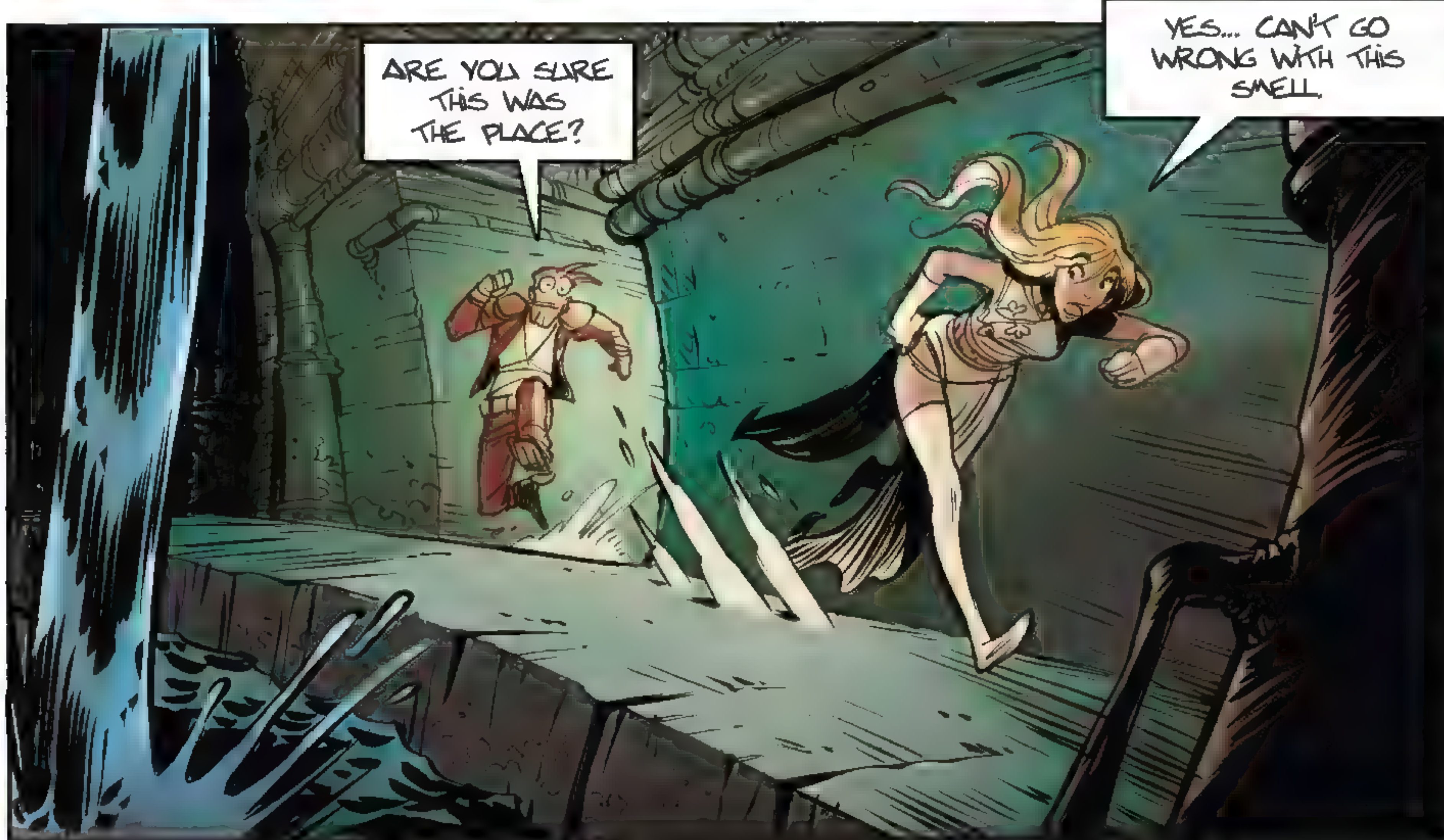
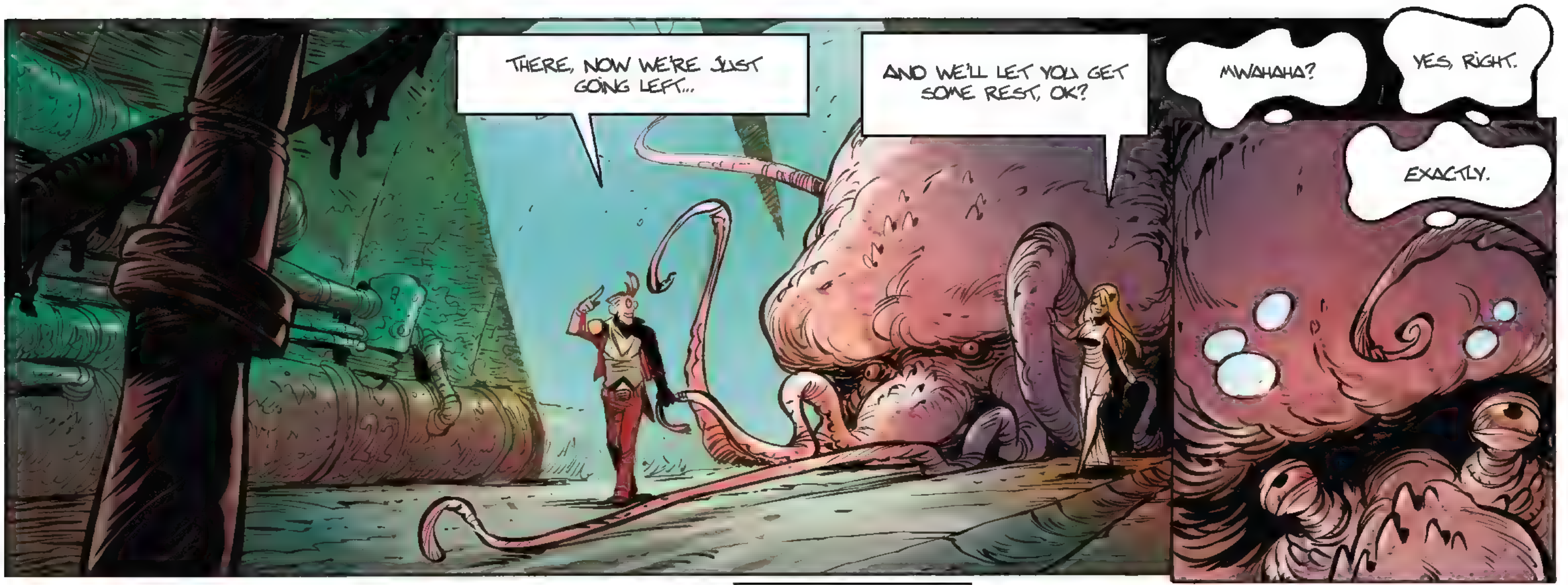




OCTO! LISTEN TO ME!
WE'VE GOT TO TALK!





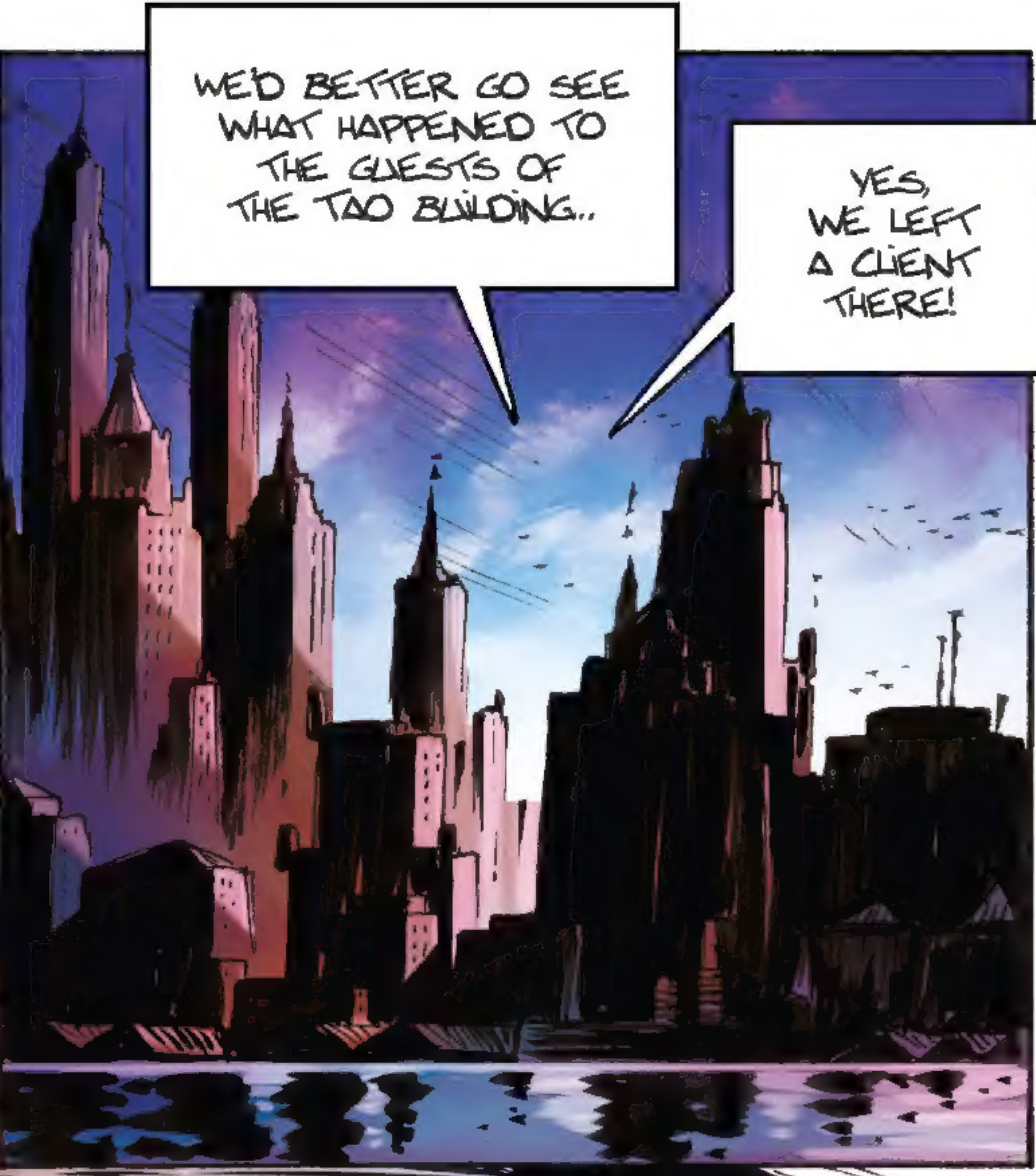




WHAT DID YOU DO,
EXACTLY?

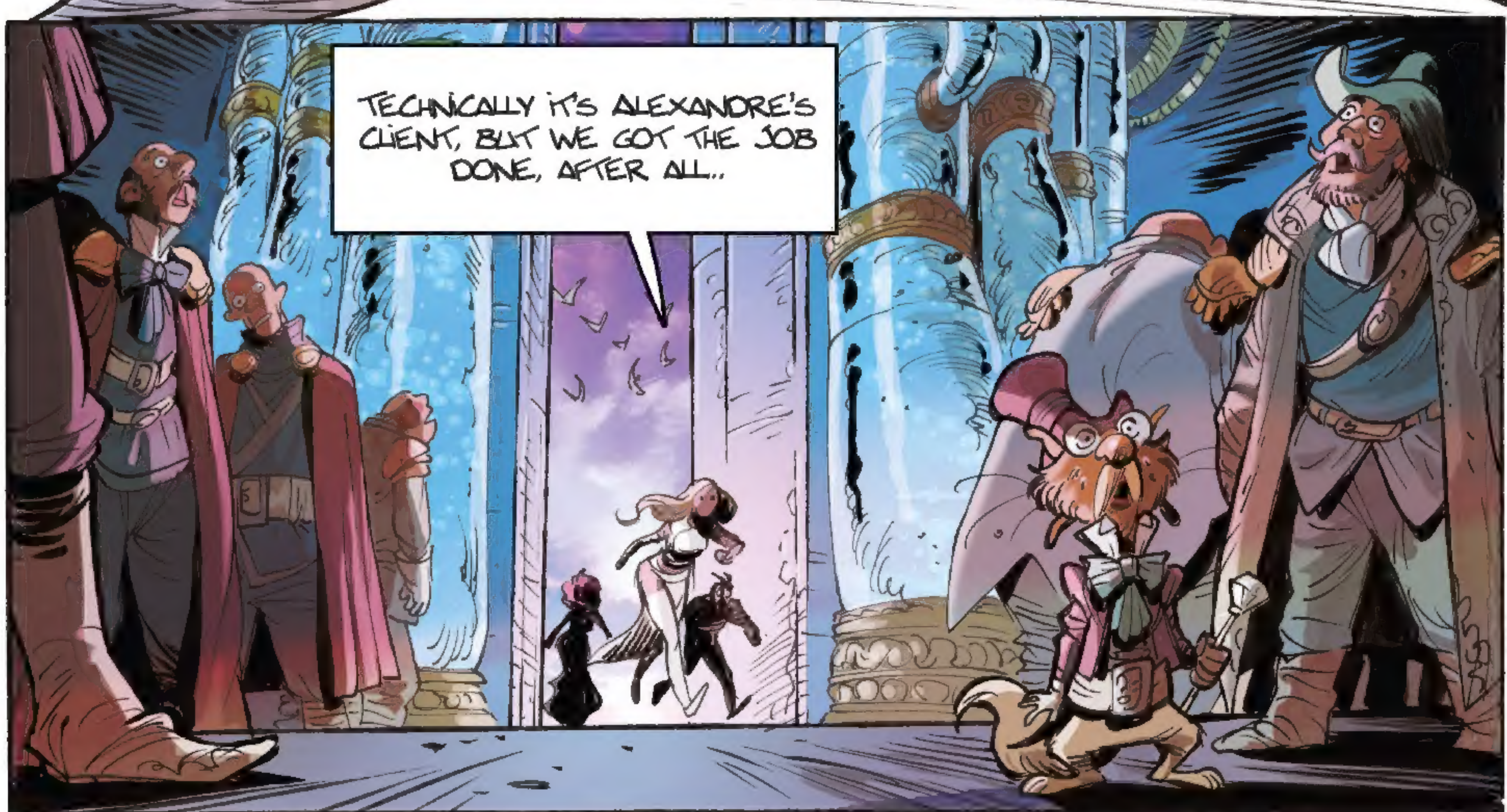
YOU DON'T
WANNA KNOW!

RUN!

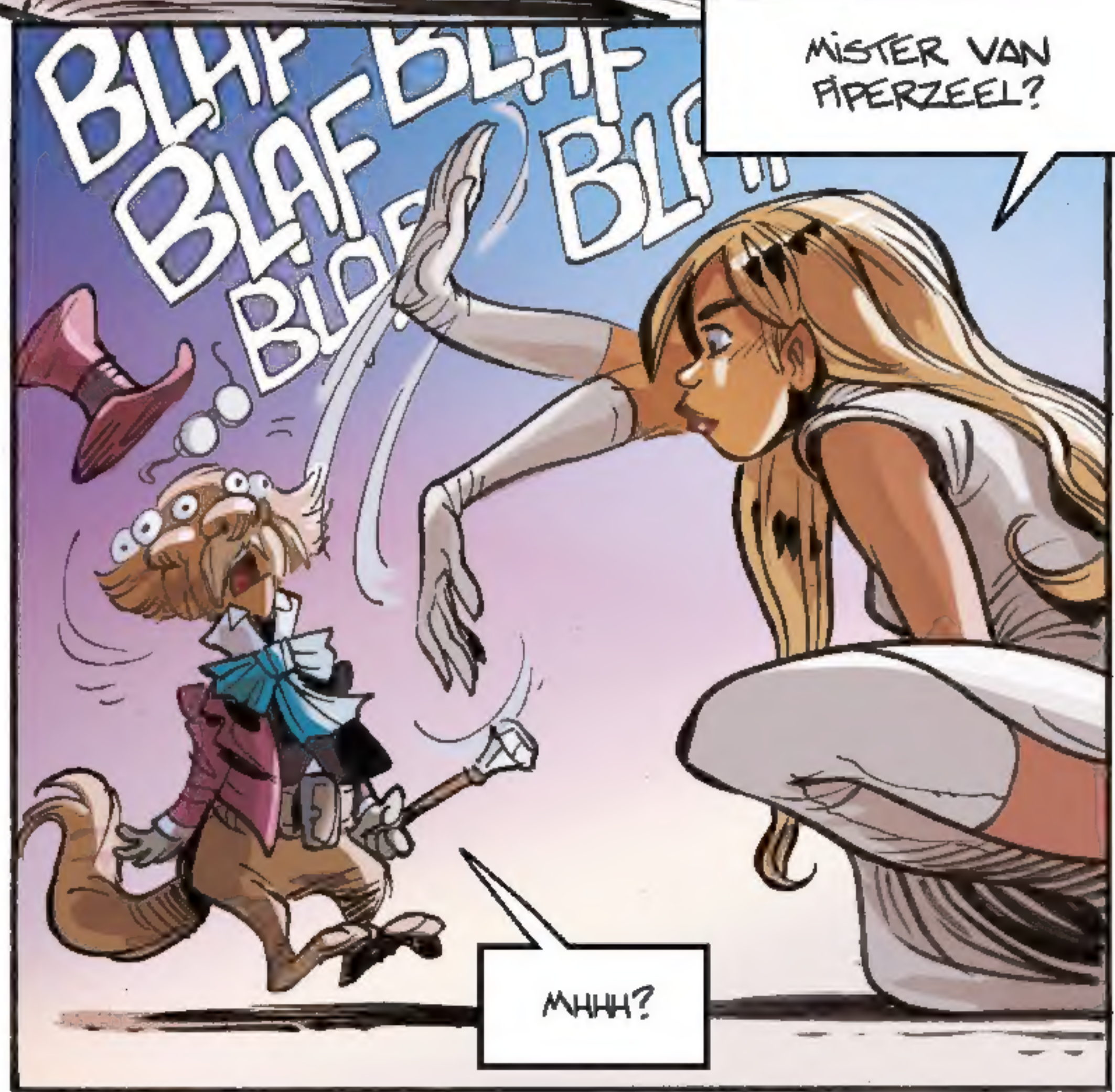


WE'D BETTER GO SEE
WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE GUESTS OF
THE TAO BUILDING..

YES
WE LEFT
A CLIENT
THERE!

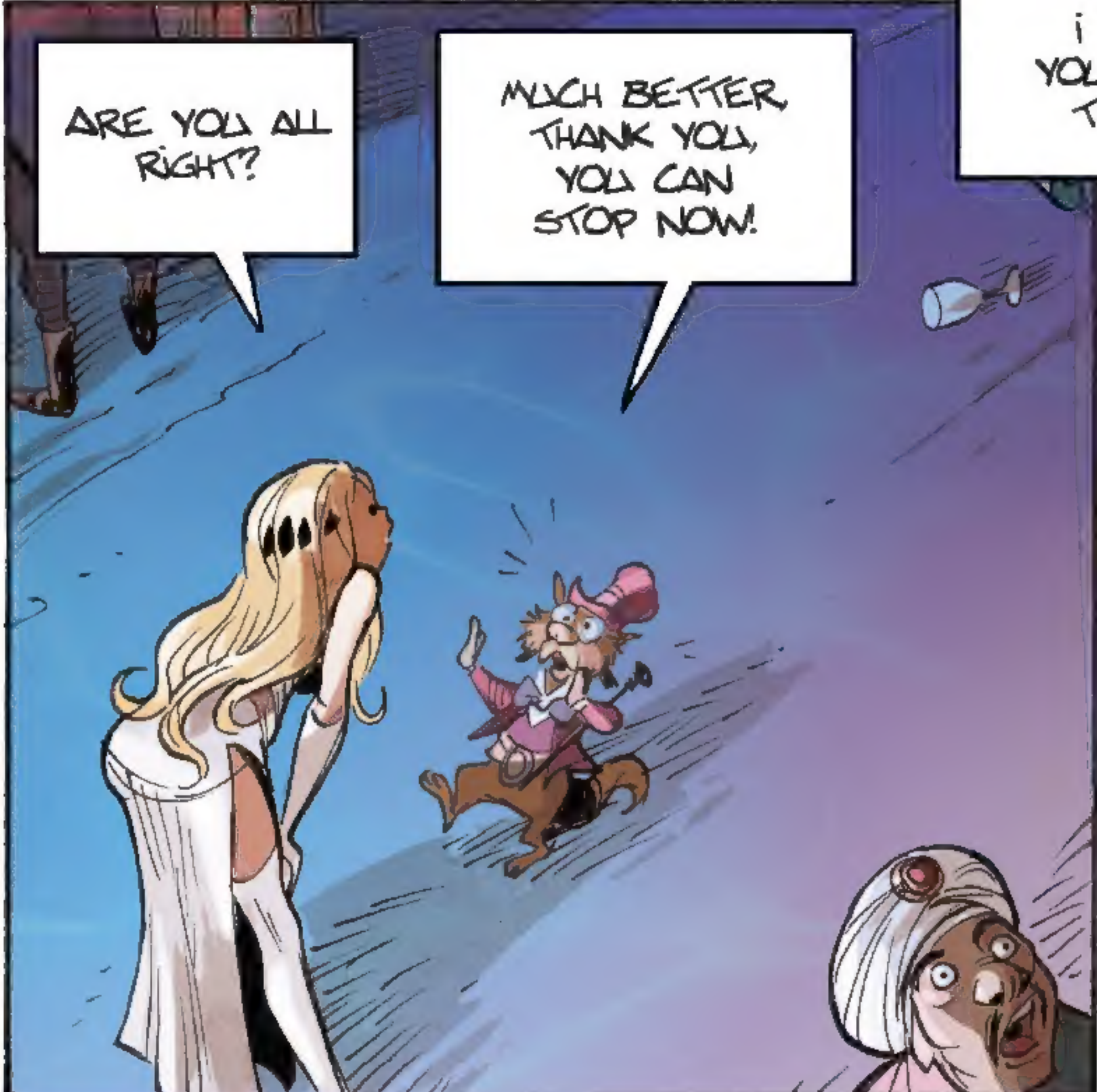


TECHNICALLY IT'S ALEXANDRE'S
CLIENT, BUT WE GOT THE JOB
DONE, AFTER ALL...



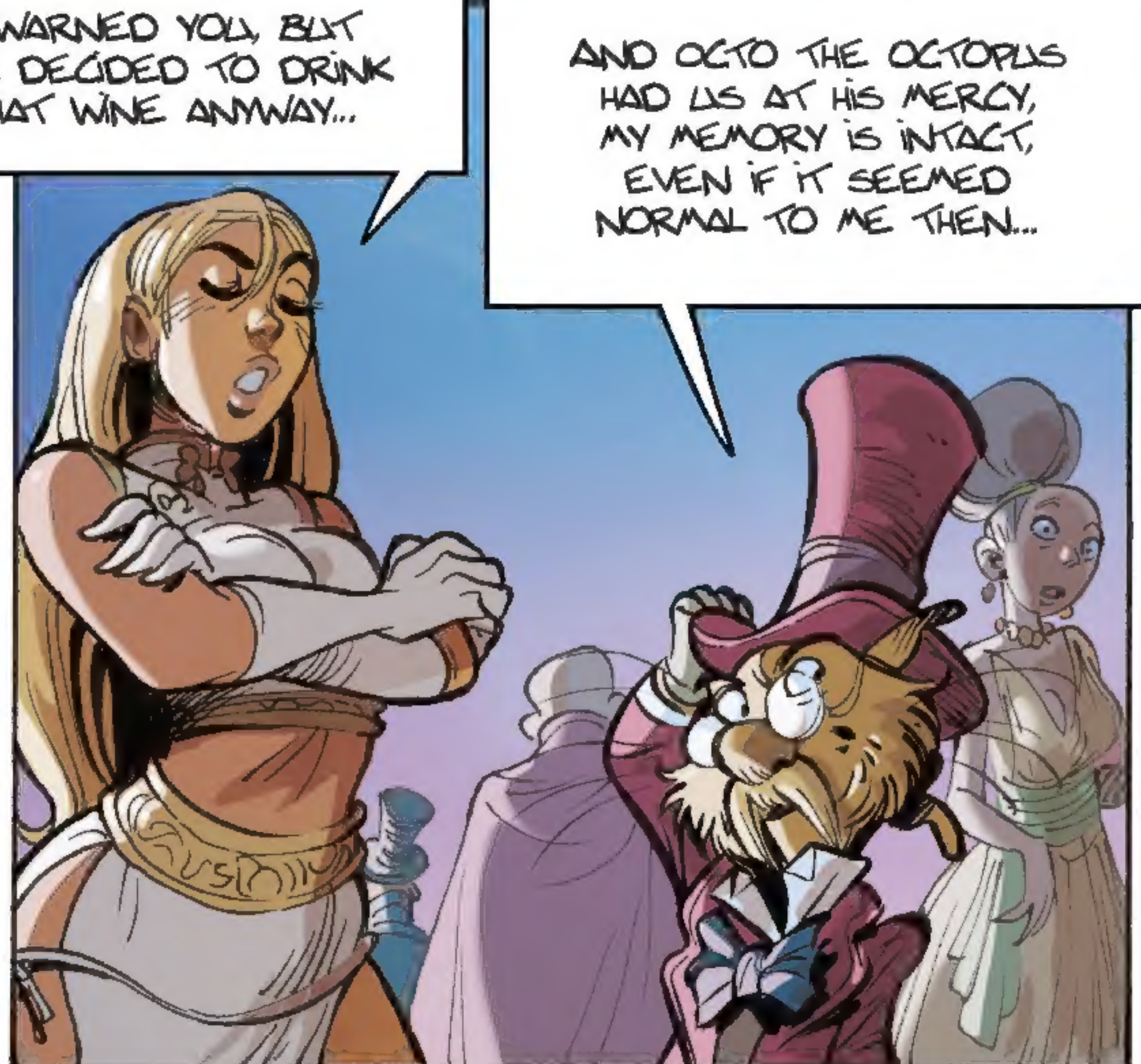
MISTER VAN
AFERZEEL?

MHH?



ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

MUCH BETTER
THANK YOU,
YOU CAN
STOP NOW!



I WARNED YOU, BUT
YOU DECIDED TO DRINK
THAT WINE ANYWAY...

AND OCTO THE OCTOPUS
HAD US AT HIS MERCY,
MY MEMORY IS INTACT,
EVEN IF IT SEEMED
NORMAL TO ME THEN...

CONGRATULATIONS ALEXANDRE,
YOU SAVED NEW YORK, THANKS
TO YOUR AMAZING DISGUISE.



I'LL ADD A GREAT BONUS TO WHAT WE AGREED,
AND INTRODUCE YOU TO ALL THE BEST PEOPLE
IN TOWN.

CONNECTIONS
MATTER



BUT FIRST, I'LL PERSONALLY WAKE
UP SOME FRIENDS. NEVER MISS OUT
THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FUN.



WAKE UP.

NOT TOO
FAST,
THOUGH.

THE NEW YORK HERALD TIMES SQUARE RAMPAGE!



An epic fight, which featured a giant sewer gator versus a colossal octopus, mutated under the influence of alcohol, was neutralized by Firefighters.

The clock had just tolled midnight when the ground began to shake in Times Square. Large parts of the street collapsed under people's feet, revealing in the abyss of the sewer a fight between two giant creatures. We'll never know how this octopus and the alligator came to fight with such violence.

The New York firefighters, promptly alerted, made a heroic intervention and gave the creatures strong sedatives, before dragging them offshore the bay. Once more, our brave fire soldiers could not have done this without their courage and creativity who intervened.

STRANGE ENDING FOR SOCIAL EVENT



Last night, famous billionaire Orpheus Tao Duang's charitable wine-tasting event ended in what can only be described as a 'slap-fest'!

The guests started slapping each other at length "to wake up", said the Mayor, before adding that he was now awake enough and that was all thanks.

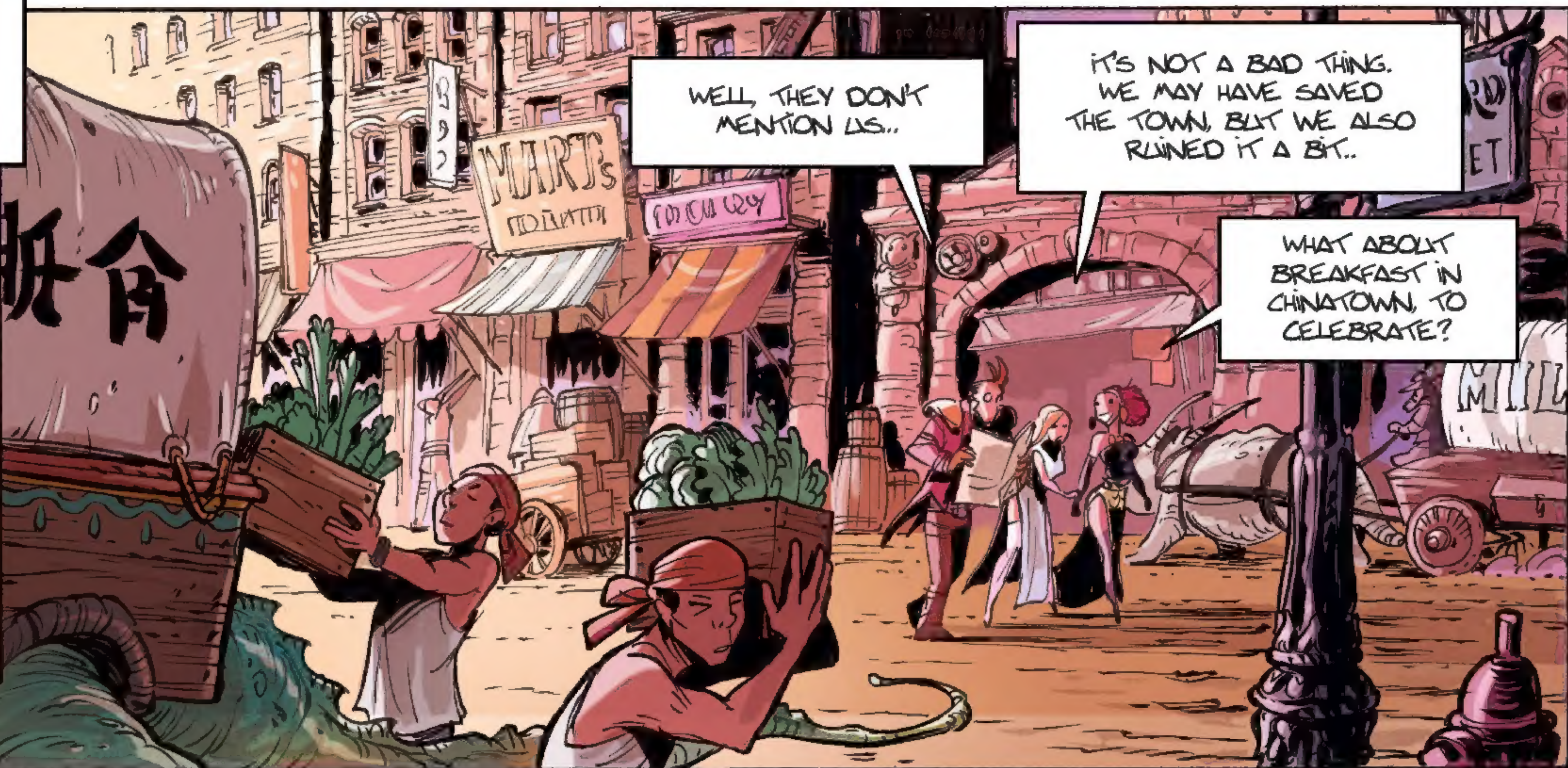
MONSTERS RAVAGE MANHATTAN!
GET THE NEW YORK HERALD!



WELL, THEY DON'T MENTION US...

IT'S NOT A BAD THING.
WE MAY HAVE SAVED
THE TOWN, BUT WE ALSO
RUINED IT A BIT...

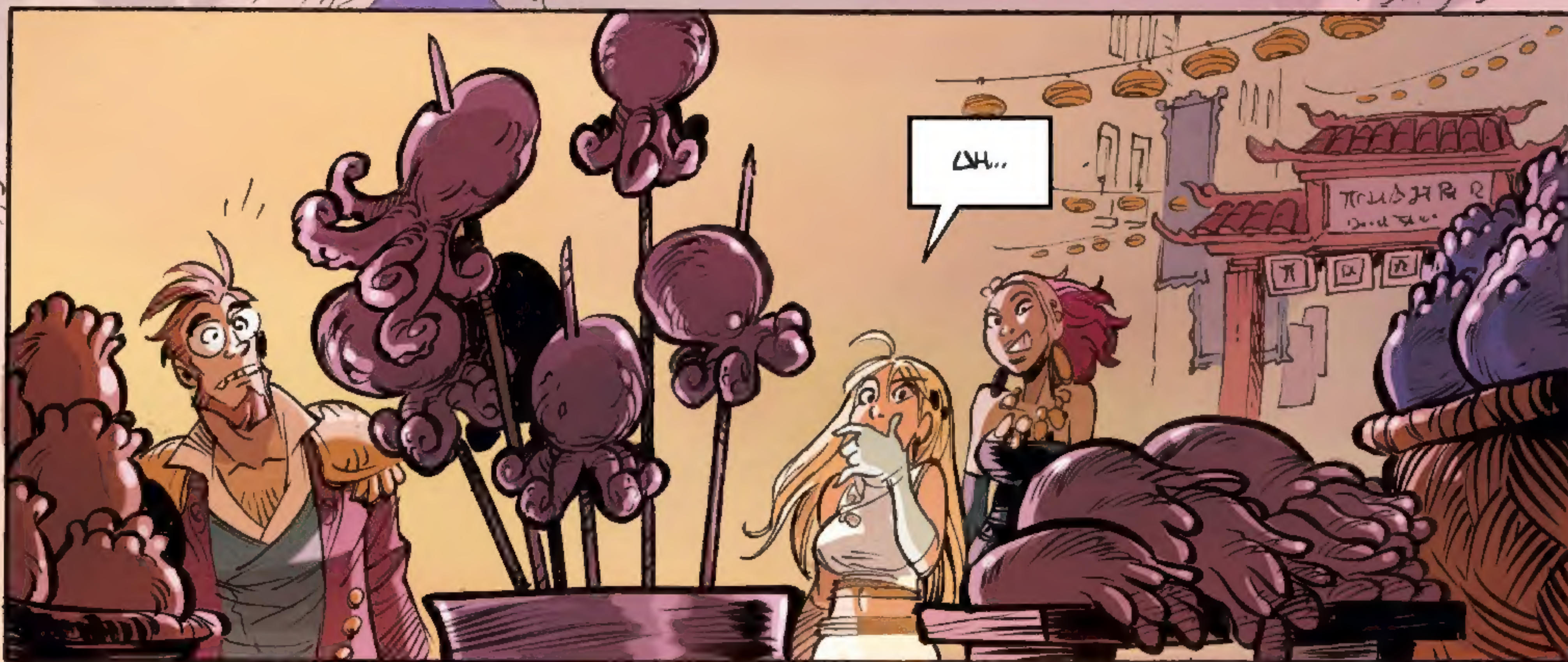
WHAT ABOUT
BREAKFAST IN
CHINATOWN, TO
CELEBRATE?



I KNOW A ZAY PLACE
WITH VERY LIGHT TEMPURAS.
IT'S A REAL TREAT!



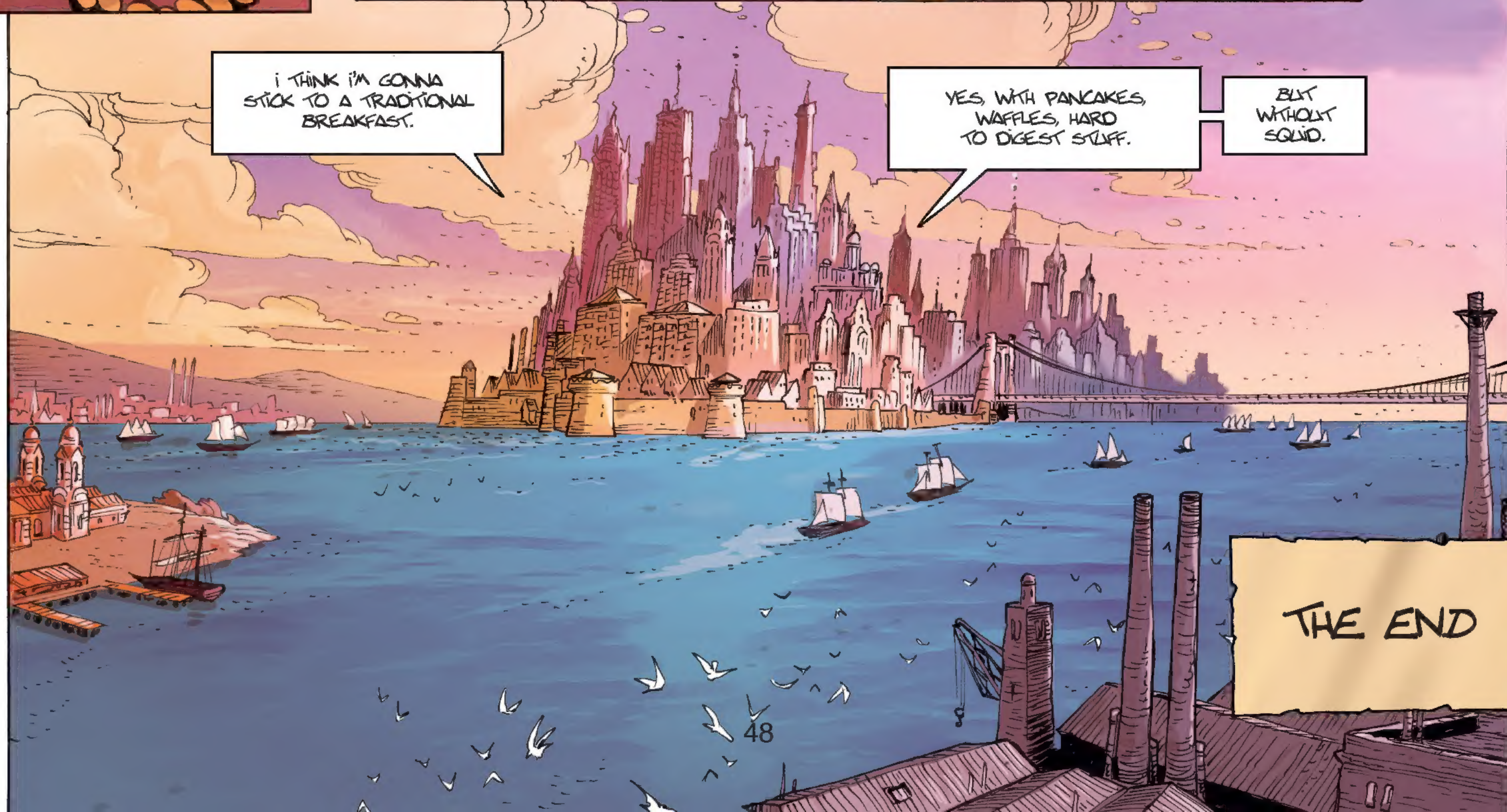
OH...



I THINK I'M GONNA
STICK TO A TRADITIONAL
BREAKFAST.

YES, WITH PANCAKES,
WAFFLES, HARD
TO DIGEST STUFF.

BUT WITHOUT
SQUID.



THE END



EKHO
The Siren of Manhattan

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Colors
Nolwenn LEBRETON

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